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DK Shivakumar to take oath today as Karnataka's 25th CM

Thousands expected as Karnataka prepares for historic leadership transition Wednesday

BENGALURU

Bengaluru has been placed under an extensive security blanket ahead of the swearing-in ceremony of Chief Minister-designate D. K. Shivakumar at Karnataka Lok Bhavan on Wednesday evening.

Shivakumar, 64, will take oath as Karnataka's 25th Chief Minister at 4.05 pm, marking a significant political transition in the state. The ceremony is expected to draw top Congress leaders, dignitaries, ministers and thousands of party workers from across Karnataka.

To manage the large turnout, Bengaluru Police have divided security arrangements into two major zones covering Lok Bhavan, surrounding areas and VIP movement routes. Access to the main venue will be tightly controlled, with multiple security checkpoints, barricades and screening points installed.

A special stage has been prepared for the oath-taking ceremony, while separate seating areas have been earmarked for VVIPs, VIPs, invited guests and media personnel. Large LED screens will broadcast the proceedings for members of the public gathered at designated areas within the venue.

> "We want the swearing-in to be dignified and ensure minimum inconvenience to Bengaluru residents."
> DK Shivakumar, CM-designate

Following the ceremony, Shivakumar is expected to participate in an open-jeep roadshow from Lok Bhavan to Vidhana Soudha.

Authorities have created a dedicated traffic corridor for the procession and ordered zero traffic movement along key stretches during the event.

Speaking about the arrangements, Shivakumar said the ceremony would be conducted in a restrained manner. The oath ceremony comes days after Siddaramaiah stepped down following consultations with the Congress high command. Around eight to ten ministers are expected to be sworn in alongside Shivakumar in the first phase of Cabinet formation.

DKS swearing-in at a glance

- **VENUE:** Karnataka Lok Bhavan, Bengaluru
- **TIME:** **4.05** pm, June **3**, 2026
- **CHIEF MINISTER:** D.K. Shivakumar (25th CM of K'taka)
- **EXPECTED MINISTERS:** **8–10** in first phase
- Security Zones: **2**
- Sectors Deployed: **13**
- **PUBLIC VIEWING:** LED screens at designated lawns
- **SPECIAL FEATURE:** Open-jeep roadshow to Vidhana Soudha
- **POST-CEREMONY:** High-tea with dignitaries and ministers
- **TRAFFIC PLAN:** Dedicated VIP corridor, restricted movement routes

Diverse gathering for DKS oath ceremony

The swearing-in ceremony of Chief Minister-designate D.K. Shivakumar is expected to witness a diverse gathering reflecting Karnataka's social, cultural and political spectrum. Along with senior Congress leaders including Rahul Gandhi, Mallikarjun Kharge, K.C. Venugopal and Randeep Surjewala, the event will be attended by Chief Ministers, Deputy Chief Ministers and Pradesh Congress Committee presidents from various states.The invitee list extends beyond politics, featuring religious leaders from different faiths, Members of Parliament, farmers' representatives, Dalit and backward class leaders, women's self-help group representatives and youth leaders.

Students from the Government School at Doddalahalli in Kanakapura, daily wage labourers and civic workers have also been invited, highlighting the Congress leadership's attempt to make the ceremony inclusive.Prominent personalities from the judiciary, media, sports, cinema, theatre, literature, arts, industry, business and hospitality sectors are expected to attend. The broad-based invitation reflects the significance of the leadership transition and the party's effort to showcase representation from all sections of society.

K'taka declares half-day holiday for Secretariat staff ahead of CM swearing-in

BENGALURU

The Karnataka government on Tuesday declared a half-day holiday for officers and staff working in Vidhana Soudha, Vikasa Soudha and the Multi-Storeyed Building on June 3 in view of the swearing-in ceremony of the Chief Minister-designate.

Considering the likely traffic congestion and the need for enhanced security arrangements, the administration decided to grant an afternoon holiday to employees working in key government offices located in the Secretariat complex.

The notification stated that the decision was taken from the perspective of ensuring security and public safety during the high-profile ceremony, which is expected to be attended by senior political leaders, government officials, party workers and supporters.

As a result, officers and staff attached to Vidhana Soudha, Vikasa Soudha and the Multi-Storeyed Building will be relieved from duty for the second half of the day on June 3.

The order was issued in the name of the Governor of Karnataka and signed by R. Yadu Kumar, Under Secretary to the Government, Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms (Services).

The swearing-in ceremony is expected to draw significant public attention as Karnataka prepares for a new phase of political leadership.

B'luru issues traffic advisory ahead of DKS swearing-in ceremony

BENGALURU

Bengaluru Police have issued a traffic advisory ahead of the swearing-in ceremony of Chief Minister-designate D. K. Shivakumar at the Lok Bhavan Glass House.

The restrictions will remain in force from 12 pm to 8 pm as thousands of party workers, dignitaries and invited guests are expected to attend the oath-taking ceremony.

According to police, Raj Bhavan Road from Basaveshwara Circle to BRV Junction and Ambedkar Road from K.R. Circle to Balekundri Circle will remain closed to regular traffic. Commuters have been advised to use alternate routes to avoid congestion around Vidhana Soudha, Lok Bhavan and surrounding areas.

Vehicles heading towards the city centre can use Cunningham Road, Nrupathunga Road, Anil Kumble Junction, Shivajinagar and Vasanthanagar routes. Traffic police personnel will be deployed at major junctions to regulate movement and assist motorists. The advisory comes amid elaborate security arrangements for Shivakumar's swearing-in, which marks a major leadership transition in Karnataka following the resignation of Siddaramaiah last week.

Traffic Advisory for June 3

- **Restrictions:** 12 pm – 8 pm

Roads Closed

- Raj Bhavan Road (Basaveshwara Circle–BRV Junction)
- Ambedkar Road (K.R. Circle–Balekundri Circle)

Alternate Routes

- Cunningham Road
- Nrupathunga Road
- Anil Kumble Junction
- Shivajinagar
- Vasanthanagar

R. Ashoka targets Shivakumar over Bengaluru roads, mocks GBA's walk challenge

BENGALURU

Leader of Opposition R. Ashoka on Tuesday launched a sharp attack on Chief Minister-designate D.K. Shivakumar over Bengaluru's deteriorating infrastructure, questioning his much-publicised "Brand Bengaluru" vision and criticising the Greater Bengaluru Authority's (GBA) controversial #1KmChallenge campaign.

Ashoka, who represents the BJP in the Karnataka Assembly, accused Shivakumar of neglecting the city during his tenure as Minister in-charge of Bengaluru Development in the Siddaramaiah-led government. He alleged that poor civic coordination had left residents grappling with damaged roads, waterlogging and unsafe commuting conditions.

The criticism comes days after the GBA faced widespread backlash on social media for encouraging citizens to walk one kilometre as part of a public campaign. The post was later deleted after users pointed to the lack of walkable footpaths and poor road conditions across the city.

In a strongly worded post on X, Ashoka said Bengaluru residents were being forced to navigate flooded and pothole-ridden roads while authorities focused on "publicity campaigns" instead of addressing civic issues.

The BJP leader further claimed that agencies such as the BWSSB and GBA had failed to coordinate road restoration works, causing inconvenience to commuters and businesses alike.

Demanding immediate action, Ashoka urged the incoming Chief Minister to prioritise infrastructure repairs over political messaging. He also called for an end to what he termed "insulting internet challenges" and sought permanent solutions to Bengaluru's recurring pothole and road maintenance issues.

The remarks come a day before Shivakumar is scheduled to be sworn in as Karnataka's 25th Chief Minister at Lok Bhavan in Bengaluru.

> "This criminal neglect lies squarely at the feet of the Chief Minister-designate D.K. Shivakumar. While he was busy plotting and manoeuvring to grab the high chair, the city he was supposed to protect has been completely abandoned."
> R Ashoka, Opposition Leader

Siddaramaiah to retain Cauvery bungalow

BENGALURU: Outgoing Chief Minister Siddaramaiah will continue residing at the official Cauvery bungalow even after stepping down, while Chief Minister-designate D.K. Shivakumar is set to operate from a different government residence following his swearing-in today.

According to sources, the two Congress leaders have reached an understanding regarding the Chief Minister's official residence. Under the arrangement, Siddaramaiah will retain the Cauvery bungalow and continue staying there until 2028 despite relinquishing the top post.

As a result, Shivakumar will initially function from his private residence before shifting to another government-allotted house at a later stage. The arrangement is considered unusual, as the Cauvery bungalow has traditionally been occupied by the sitting Chief Minister. However, political observers note that a similar situation occurred in 2021 when former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa continued residing in the official residence even after stepping down from office.

India issues Ebola advisory, urges vigilance despite no reported cases

NEW DELHI

The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on Tuesday issued a public health advisory on Ebola Virus Disease (EVD), clarifying that no Ebola cases have been reported in India while calling for heightened vigilance among travellers arriving from affected countries.

The advisory comes amid a fresh outbreak of Ebola in parts of Africa, prompting health authorities worldwide to strengthen surveillance measures and precautionary protocols.

In a statement, the ministry said travellers who have visited or transited through Ebola-affected countries within the last 21 days should closely monitor their health and immediately report any symptoms. Individuals experiencing fever, headache, muscle pain, vomiting, diarrhoea or unexplained bleeding have been advised to isolate themselves and contact local health authorities without delay.

India, US begin crucial three-day talks on interim trade pact

NEW DELHI

India and the United States on Tuesday commenced a three-day round of negotiations in New Delhi aimed at finalising the details of a proposed interim trade agreement and advancing discussions on a broader Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA).

The talks are being held at Vanijya Bhavan, with the US delegation led by chief negotiator Brendan Lynch and the Indian side represented by Additional Secretary in the Department of Commerce Darpan Jain.

The negotiations build on the framework agreed upon by both countries on February 7. However, recent changes in the US tariff regime following a Supreme Court ruling against President Donald Trump's reciprocal tariff policy have prompted both sides to revisit key provisions of the proposed pact.

Five new SC judges sworn in, strength rises to 37

NEW DELHI: Five new judges were sworn in to the Supreme Court on Tuesday, taking the court's working strength to 37 judges and leaving only one vacancy after the recent expansion of its sanctioned strength. Chief Justice of India Surya Kant administered the oath to Justices Sheel Nagu, Shree Chandrashekhar, Sanjeev Sachdeva, Arun Palli and senior advocate V. S. Mohana. The appointments follow the Union government's decision to increase the Supreme Court's sanctioned strength from 33 to 37 judges, excluding the Chief Justice, to help tackle a backlog of more than 93,000 pending cases. Mohana's elevation is particularly significant as it boosts female representation in the apex court.

Monsoon to arrive in Kerala on June 4, IMD issues rain alert

NEW DELHI: The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has confirmed that the southwest monsoon is likely to make its onset over Kerala on June 4, marking the official start of India's rainy season after a brief delay. The weather agency has forecast widespread rainfall across southern India over the next week, with Kerala expected to receive heavy to very heavy rainfall of 7 cm to 20 cm at isolated places. Heavy showers are also likely in parts of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu as monsoon winds strengthen over the Arabian Sea. The IMD has additionally warned of thunderstorms, lightning and gusty winds of 40-50 kmph across several regions, including northwest, central and eastern India.

FRAGILE CEASEFIRE TALKS

Israel-Lebanon talks resume in Washington

WASHINGTON

As diplomatic efforts intensified to prevent a wider regional conflict, Israel and Lebanon on Tuesday began a new round of talks in Washington amid continued tensions along the border and uncertainty over a proposed ceasefire involving Hezbollah.

The discussions come a day after US President Donald Trump claimed that Israel and Hezbollah had agreed to halt hostilities following separate conversations with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and representatives linked to Hezbollah. Trump expressed hope that the cessation of fighting would last "for eternity" and suggested progress was also being made toward an understanding with Iran regarding regional stability and the Strait of Hormuz.

Despite the announcement, violence persisted. Israeli forces reportedly carried out strikes in southern Lebanon, while projectiles fired from Lebanon were intercepted over northern Israel. The exchanges underscored the fragility of the situation even as diplomatic channels remained active.

Why the talks matter

The Washington negotiations are aimed at stabilising the Israel-Lebanon border and preventing further escalation involving Hezbollah and Iran. A successful outcome could reduce the risk of a broader Middle East conflict, improve regional security, and support efforts to keep vital shipping routes such as the Strait of Hormuz open.

Arivu Samsthe felicitates Sri Ganapati seer with 'Mysuru Ratna' award

MYSURU

Arivu Samsthe honoured Datta Peetham pontiff Sri Ganapathy Sachchidananda Swamiji during a special Guru Vandana programme held at the Nadamantapa of the Ganapathy Sachchidananda Ashram, marking the spiritual leader's 84th birthday celebrations.

On the occasion, the organisation recognised the revered Swamiji's lifelong contributions to society in the fields of religion, spirituality, music, healthcare, medical services, environmental conservation, annadanam (free food service), meditation and several other humanitarian activities.

In recognition of his outstanding and enduring service to humanity, the "Mysuru Ratna" Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to the revered Guru.

The award was conferred as a mark of respect and gratitude for the invaluable guidance and service rendered by the seer over the decades. Through the presentation of the Mysuru Ratna Award, members of the organisation offered their Guru Vandana and paid homage to his remarkable achievements and contributions to society.

Among those present at the event were Hotel Owners' Association President Narayanagowda, senior social worker K. Raghuram Vajpayee, Arivu Samsthe President Shrikanth Kashyap, Girish, Director of Jeevadhara Blood Bank Centre, retired police officer Vasanth Kumar, Murali, Mahesh Kumar, and office-bearers and members of Arivu Organisation.

Two Held in ₹13.69 Lakh Gold Fraud Case

CYBER POLICE RECOVER 173 LOST MOBILES WORTH ₹35 LAKH

MYSURU

The Mysuru District Cyber Crime Police have recovered 173 lost and stolen mobile phones worth approximately ₹35 lakh and arrested two persons involved in an online gold fraud case in separate operations, Superintendent of Police Mallikarjuna Baladandi said on Tuesday.

Addressing a press conference in Mysuru, the SP said that the Central Equipment Identity Register (CEIR), an initiative of the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), has been playing a crucial role in helping citizens trace and block lost or stolen mobile phones. During May 2026, a total of 263 complaints regarding lost mobile phones were registered through the CEIR portal from police stations across Mysuru district. Under the supervision of CEIR Nodal Officer and Deputy Superintendent of Police Srikanth R. of the Cyber Crime Police Station, coordination with police stations across the district resulted in the tracing and recovery of 173 Android mobile phones and iPhones belonging to various brands. The recovered devices are collectively valued at around ₹35 lakh.

The SP urged citizens to immediately lodge complaints on the CEIR portal whenever they lose their mobile phones to facilitate prompt tracing and recovery. In another significant breakthrough, the Cyber Crime Police solved a case involving online cheating under the pretext of supplying gold at a discounted rate. On January 27, 2026, Jitendra Kumar Khandelwal, a gold dealer from K.R. Nagar, filed a complaint stating that unknown persons contacted him through WhatsApp and offered to sell gold at ₹600 less per gram than the market price. Trusting the offer, he transferred ₹13.69 lakh towards the purchase of 100 grams of gold. However, the accused failed to deliver the gold and disappeared.

Based on the complaint, the Mysuru District Cyber Crime Police registered a case and launched an investigation. The probe identified the accused as Amit Singh alias Ani from Punjab, Yatin Ramesh Jain and Mohammad Shadab Anjum from Maharashtra.

A police team led by Police Inspector Sunil S.P. travelled to Maharashtra, where Yatin Ramesh Jain and Mohammad Shadab Anjum were traced, taken into custody, interrogated and arrested before being produced before a court. The prime accused, Amit Singh, remains absconding and efforts are underway to apprehend him.

Investigations revealed that the accused had allegedly opened 56 bank accounts using documents collected from members of the public. As many as 196 cybercrime complaints from various states have reportedly been registered against these accounts. Police suspect that cyber frauds amounting to nearly ₹189.49 crore have been committed through the network.

The SP commended DySP Srikanth R., Police Inspector Sunil S.P., PSI Lakshmi R., Head Constables Manjunath S. and Rangaswamy H.V., Police Constables Abhishek T.N., Mahesh C.N., Rana and other personnel involved in recovering the mobile phones, detecting the cyber fraud and managing the CEIR portal operations across the district.

LOKMATA AHILYABAI HOLKAR

The philosopher queen who defined ideal governance

Mysuru

The 301st birth anniversary of Lokmata Punyashlok Ahilyabai Holkar, one of India's most revered rulers, was celebrated across the country with cultural, social and religious programmes. Special events were held at her birthplace, Chaundi in Maharashtra's Ahilyanagar district, as well as in Indore, Pune and several other cities, said Sreevalli Krishna, Panalist of State BJP unit said Ahilyabai Holkar rose from humble beginnings to become one of the most respected rulers of the Malwa region. Following the deaths of her husband Khanderao Holkar, father-in-law Malharrao Holkar and her only son Male Rao, she courageously assumed the responsibility of governing the kingdom in 1767. She later made Maheshwar on the banks of the Narmada River her capital.

Renowned for her administrative excellence, justice and concern for public welfare, Ahilyabai established an efficient and transparent governance system. Her court was known for impartial justice, and ordinary citizens had direct access to seek redressal of grievances. She also promoted agriculture, trade and local industries, including the

famed Maheshwari saree tradition.

She said a devout yet inclusive ruler, Ahilyabai used her personal wealth to renovate and rebuild several important pilgrimage centres and temples, including the Kashi Vishwanath and Somnath temples. She also constructed ghats, wells, dharamshalas and public facilities across India, benefiting countless pilgrims and travellers.

Fondly remembered as "Lokmata" (Mother of the People), Ahilyabai Holkar's legacy continues to inspire generations with her vision, compassion, courage and dedication to public service. British historian John Keay aptly described her as the "Philosopher Queen," a tribute to her wisdom and exemplary leadership. Today, she remains a timeless symbol of ideal governance and women's empowerment, she added.

DKShi's leadership propel state's Devpt: Naveen Kumar

MYSURU

Congress leaders and workers led by N.M. Naveen Kumar, a prominent Congress leader from the Krishnaraja Assembly constituency, celebrated at Chamundipuram Circle in the city ahead of Congress Legislature Party leader D.K. Shivakumar taking oath as the new Chief Minister on Wednesday.

The supporters marked the occasion by bursting crackers and distributing sweets.

Speaking on the occasion, Naveen Kumar said that the honour bestowed upon Shivakumar is a matter of great happiness and recognition of his long-standing service, dedication, commitment and hard work towards strengthening the Congress party. Under his leadership, Karnataka would move towards a new era of development and people-centric governance.

He noted that Shivakumar's vast political experience, organisational skills, unwavering loyalty to the party and commitment to public welfare have earned him this well-deserved recognition. The new Chief Minister's leadership is expected to provide fresh direction to the state's development and further strengthen responsive and effective governance that addresses the aspirations of the people.

Among those present during the celebrations were KPCC member Nazarbad Nataraj, D.K. Shivakumar Fans Association Representative G. Raghavendra, Dinesh, Praveen Kumar, Pailwan Sunil, Dairy Venkatesh, S.N. Rajesh, Yogesh Yadav, Krishnappa (Gantayya), Seva Dal Mohan, City Youth Congress Vice-President Bharat Shetty, City Youth Congress General Secretary Shashikanth, youth leader Sridhar and several other party workers and supporters who joined N.M. Naveen Kumar in the celebrations.

Before criticising Sanatana Dharma, Can Udhayanidhi Stalin stop his family's Faith?

MYSURU

Remarks made by DMK leader and Tamil Nadu Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin on Sanatana Dharma have sparked debate across the country. However, the fact that members of his own family continue to visit temples and offer prayers reflects their respect for Sanatana traditions and India's spiritual heritage, said Santosh Kumar B.M., Media Co-Coordinator, in a press statement.

He pointed out that Durga Stalin, mother of Udhayanidhi Stalin, recently visited Mysuru and offered special prayers at the revered Sri Chamundeshwari Temple atop Chamundi Hills. She later visited the Nimishamba Temple at Srirangapatna and sought blessings. According to Santosh Kumar, these visits demonstrate that Sanatana culture is not merely a religious concept but an integral part of the lives and values of millions of people.

Referring to Udhayanidhi Stalin's earlier remarks in which he spoke about eliminating Sanatana Dharma, he said that the temple visits by his own family members have highlighted the contrast between political statements and personal beliefs. The people are closely observing attempts to use religion and culture for political purposes. Sanatana Dharma is a civilisational tradition encompassing thousands of years of history, culture, spirituality and values. Despite facing numerous challenges, attacks and opposition throughout history, it has continued to endure because of the faith and practices of its followers.

The BJP media coordinator noted that even during periods when Hindu temples and religious symbols faced attacks, devotees preserved and protected their traditions with unwavering commitment. History itself has shown that such a deeply rooted tradition cannot be erased through political rhetoric alone. Udhayanidhi Stalin must first reflect on the spiritual beliefs and practices followed within his own family before making derogatory remarks about Sanatana Dharma. Such statements hurt the sentiments of millions of devotees.

Jayadeva Institute plans weekly cardiac screening camps in Ch'nagar

MYSURU

Dr. B. Dinesh, Director of the Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences and Research, said that plans are underway to conduct weekly heart health screening camps for the public in Chamarajanagar in collaboration with the Chamarajanagar Medical College and the district administration.

Speaking to reporters, he said a small cardiac care unit has been started in Chamarajanagar. Patients with heart-related ailments will be examined every Monday or Wednesday, and those requiring advanced treatment will be referred to Mysuru for specialized care.

Dr. Dinesh noted that with the onset of the monsoon season, people should remain cautious about heart-related ailments. In northern parts of the country, extreme heat has led to dehydration and various health complications among people. Therefore, heart patients should undergo cardiac check-ups once every three months.

Expressing concern over the increasing incidence of heart attacks among young people, he urged the youth to avoid alcohol, smoking, and substance abuse and adopt a healthy lifestyle. He prescribed regular exercise and walking, and recommended consuming home-cooked food, leafy vegetables, pulses, and other nutritious foods while avoiding bakery products and junk food.

Dr Dinesh said that people above the age of 40 should undergo a comprehensive health check-up at least once a year. Such preventive measures would help build a healthier society.

The director announced that Jayadeva cardiac units will be launched within the next three months at hospitals in Govindarajanagar, Bengaluru, and Charaka Hospital. In Mysuru, foundation work for a new 200-bed expansion block will begin within a month.

Additionally, a 437-bed super-specialty cardiac hospital in Hubballi is expected to be ready for public service by September, significantly enhancing cardiac healthcare facilities in the region.

"Imitation of western culture a key reason for rising divorce rates"

MYSURU

Former Nanjangud MLA B. Harshavardhan said that the growing tendency to imitate Western culture is one of the major reasons for the increasing number of divorce cases in society.

Speaking after inaugurating a discussion programme on rising divorce rates, organized by Nannavva Cultural Art Troupe of Yachenahalli in T. Narasipura taluk here, he observed that foreigners were once amazed by the long-lasting marriages and strong family bonds maintained by Indians. Despite this, they are now trying to follow their culture. Marriage occupies a sacred place in Indian culture and that its significance must be preserved. Couples should understand the value of marriage and lead their lives together with mutual trust and understanding.

Recalling earlier times, Harshavardhan said people did not have mobile phones or television and communication was limited. Today, despite increased connectivity, relationships are getting damaged. In inter-caste marriages, families on both sides often do not extend support. Couples must be cautious in such situations; otherwise, issues such as divorce may arise. Irrespective of the type of marriage, mutual adjustment and understanding are essential. A daughter-in-law today will become a mother-in-law tomorrow, and a son-in-law today will become a father-in-law in the future. People should keep this perspective in mind.

Presiding over the programme, Nagaraj V. Bairi, District President of the Karnataka Sugama Sangeetha Parishat, said that the decline in moral values is a major factor contributing to the rise in divorces. Moral education should be included in school curricula. If people understand Indian culture and traditions, many of these problems can be avoided and they can lead happier lives.

Maddikere Gopal, President of the District Kannada Sahitya Parishat, presented a talk on 'Life Through Mutual Understanding.'

Senior journalist Amshi Prasannakumar attended as a special guest.

National Award-winning retired teacher N. Gangadharappa and writer Prabhashastri Joshyula served as judges for the discussion programme. Komala Nagaraju and others were present.

Ideal Couples Honoured

On the occasion, several couples were felicitated as Ideal Couples for their exemplary married lives. They included:

S.J. Swarna and M. Mohankumar (Mysuru), C. Mamatha and Satish (Hegguru), Y.S. Yashoda and Y.K. Chandru (Yachenahalli), Yashoda and Somanna (Nagalagere),

Jayamma and Rajasekhar Nayak (Deshavalli), Ranjana and S. Lakshmeesh (Nanjangud), B. Suma and P. Javaranayak (Agathuru).

Members of Geetha Nadasiri Institution and Sneha Bharathi Team presented musical performances during the event.

Founder of Nannavva Cultural Art Troupe Y.G. Mahadev welcomed the gathering. Sinchana Chikkolale compered the programme, while N. Divyajyothi and D. Brinda proposed the vote of thanks.

MONSOON ARRIVES IN STYLE

Mysuru dances to the first showers of the season

MYSURU

After Weeks of Scorching Heat, Rain-Soaked Mysuru Welcomes Nature's Grand Relief

Mysuru finally received a refreshing taste of the monsoon as light to heavy showers swept across different parts of the city on Tuesday, bringing much-needed respite from the relentless summer heat.

The day began on a humid note, with residents enduring sticky weather conditions through the morning. However, by afternoon, the mood of the city changed dramatically as dark, rain-laden clouds gathered over the skyline, signalling the arrival of the much-awaited rains. Within hours, several localities witnessed moderate showers, while some areas experienced intense downpours accompanied by gusty winds.

Schoolchildren were among the first to feel the impact of the sudden weather change. As the rain intensified shortly after school hours, many students were left drenched while making their way home. Office-goers too found themselves caught off guard. Many sought temporary shelter under shop awnings and bus stops, while others hurriedly booked private transport services to escape the heavy showers.

The rain transformed roads and streets across the city. In several low-lying areas, water accumulated rapidly, leading to knee-deep flooding and slowing traffic movement. Vehicles moved cautiously through water-logged stretches, while pedestrians navigated flooded footpaths and overflowing drains.

Civic agencies remained on high alert throughout the evening. Teams from the Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) were deployed to clear clogged storm-water drains and prevent flooding in vulnerable areas. Meanwhile, personnel from the Chamundeshwari Electricity Supply Corporation (CESC) monitored the situation closely and worked to restore power supply in pockets affected by rain-related disruptions.

Weather experts predict that this could be the beginning of a sustained wet spell. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has indicated that the southwest monsoon is set to make its onset over Kerala from Wednesday, raising hopes of widespread rainfall across Karnataka in the coming days.

The showers have brought cheer not only to residents but also to farmers and water managers. Mysuru had endured an unusually harsh summer, with temperatures soaring close to 40 degrees Celsius. Water levels in the Krishna Raja Sagar (KRS) and Kabini reservoirs had fallen alarmingly low. With the monsoon now knocking on the doors, citizens are hopeful that the rains will replenish the reservoirs and revive the region's water resources in the weeks ahead.

₹209 crore water bill dues choke MCC finances

Domestic consumers account for ₹168.13 cr

SHYAM SUNDAR VATTAM
MYSURU

Even as Mysuru prides itself on its dependable drinking water supply, the city's water utility is battling a growing financial crisis.

A staggering ₹209.17 crore in unpaid water bills from government departments, commercial establishments, industries and domestic consumers has left the Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) under severe financial strain.

The dues pertain to water supplied by the Vani Vilas Water Works (VVWW) division, which manages drinking water distribution across the city. Officials warn that the mounting arrears are hampering maintenance works and delaying infrastructure upgrades needed to meet the demands of a growing city.

Of the total pending amount, government departments owe ₹41.04 crore, while commercial establishments, industries and domestic consumers account for ₹168.13 crore.

Among government agencies, the Railway Department tops the list with outstanding dues of ₹20.83 crore, followed by the City Police Department (₹8.52 crore) and the Education Department (₹3.33 crore). Other defaulters include the District Police, Health Department, Social Welfare Department, Public Works Department, Mysuru University, KPTCL, KMF and several other agencies.

Domestic consumers constitute the largest category of defaulters, accounting for ₹129.66 crore, while under-construction buildings owe ₹17.22 crore, commercial establishments ₹13.24 crore, and industries ₹5.44 crore.

Citizens Express Concern

Local residents expressed concern over the impact of unpaid dues on civic services.

"We pay our water bills regularly. It is unfair that government departments and large establishments continue to accumulate huge arrears while essential services suffer," said Ramesh Kumar, a resident of Vijayanagar.

"Water is a basic necessity. If the corporation is struggling financially, it could affect future projects and maintenance works. Defaulters must be held accountable," said homemaker Lakshmi Devi from Saraswathipuram.

Officials call for immediate action

VVWW officials stressed that supplying quality drinking water round-the-clock involves significant expenditure. "Continuous water supply requires substantial investment in pumping, treatment, maintenance and infrastructure. Every consumer and institution must fulfil their responsibility by clearing pending dues," a senior VVWW official said.

Another corporation official noted, "Recovering the outstanding amount will greatly strengthen the city's water infrastructure and improve service delivery. A focused recovery drive is essential."

Civic observers believe the MCC must launch a special campaign to recover long-pending dues and take strict action against chronic defaulters. With rising operational costs and growing arrears, Mysuru's water management system faces increasing pressure.

Unless prompt recovery measures are initiated, officials fear the financial burden on the corporation could deepen further, affecting the sustainability of the city's drinking water supply network.

Special drive soon

MCC Commissioner Shaikh Tanveer Asif told City Hilights that a special water adalat will be held in all zones soon for the speedy recovery of the pending water bills. The citizens have complaints about the excess billing, non-working of water meters and other issues that needs to be sorted out on priority. After addressing the grievances of the citizens, the Mysuru City Corporation would speed up the collection drive. Since water is an essential commodity, it cannot be disconnected to the defaulters.

No Railway Line Proposal Through Kodagu now: MP Yaduveer clarifies

MYSURU

Mysuru–Kodagu Lok Sabha Member of Parliament Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar clarified that there is currently no proposal before the Ministry of Railways for any railway line passing through Kodagu district.

The clarification comes after his meeting with Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, during which various issues related to railway infrastructure and connectivity in the Mysuru–Kodagu parliamentary constituency were discussed. The MP said that certain recent reports and discussions regarding the possibility of a railway line passing through Kodagu had created concern among a section of the public. However, during his interaction with the Railway Minister, it was confirmed that no such proposal is presently under consideration by the Ministry.

Yaduveer emphasized that before undertaking any future infrastructure project in the region, consultations would be held with all stakeholders, and due consideration would be given to the district's environmental, ecological, and developmental interests.

He reiterated his commitment to ensuring the balanced development of Kodagu while preserving its unique ecological and cultural heritage. He would continue to remain in touch with the Ministry of Railways on matters related to improving connectivity and infrastructure development in the region.

Howevr, he appealed to the public not to be misled by speculative reports and assured that any official developments on the matter would be communicated transparently through appropriate channels.

Upgrade road to prevent mishaps at 120 black spots: DC Reddy

MYSURU

Deputy Commissioner G Lakshmikanth Reddy directed officials to take immediate steps to develop and improve roads identified as accident-prone in order to reduce road mishaps.

Chairing a meeting at the Deputy Commissioner's office on Tuesday, he said that the District Road Safety Committee has identified 120 accident-prone black spots across the district. Plans have been prepared to implement safety measures at these locations, and officials must take necessary action to improve the roads and prevent accidents.

Reddy instructed officials to visit roads where fatal accidents have occurred, identify the exact causes, and take corrective measures accordingly.

Reviewing the progress of work at the 120 black spots, he noted that most of these roads come under the jurisdiction of the Public Works Department (PWD) and the National Highways Authority. Officials must submit proposals to the government seeking funds for road development and, wherever possible, include the works under the available departmental budget as per rules.

The DC also instructed officials of the Mysuru City Corporation and the Police Department to jointly inspect accident-prone locations within Mysuru city, identify additional black spots, and initiate measures for road improvement. Accidents on some roads could be prevented through minor works such as the installation of proper signboards and other safety measures. There is a need for closer monitoring of such issues and officials must conduct mandatory site inspections in every case involving a fatal road accident. Besides, the authorities must close and rectify any unauthorized openings or access points created along the Ring Road for vehicle movement, as these pose safety risks.

The meeting was attended by Superintendent of Police Mallikarjun Baladandi, Assistant Commissioner of Police (Traffic) Shiv Shankar M., PWD Executive Engineer Padmanabha, Mysuru City Corporation Superintending Engineer Manju C.S., NHAI Site Engineer Arun B., Siddarthanagar Traffic Police Inspector Shivaprasad Rao, V.V. Puram Traffic Police Inspector Mamatha V.D., and other officials.

Quality food is the key to good health: Dr. Khadar

MYSURU

Good health can be achieved through the consumption of quality food, said millet awareness campaigner and Padmasri awardee Dr. Khadar Valli.

Inaugurating a brainstorming session on environment and health, organized by the Federation of State Farmers' Organizations and the State Sugarcane Growers' Association here on Tuesday, he said that nearly 8 percent of children are born with heart defects and developmental disorders, while in countries such as the United States and Europe, around 28 percent of children suffer from hormonal imbalances, making it difficult for them to identify themselves as male or female.

Dr Khader pointed out that Karnataka cultivates sugarcane on nearly 15 lakh acres, despite not requiring such a large quantity of sugar. Sugar is a substance that should be produced only in the final stage of digestion. The human body requires only about 5 grams of glucose or sugar. The sugar or glucose content in the blood should not exceed 5 grams to maintain proper balance. "If we consume more than the required amount, the blood becomes thicker, which can obstruct blood circulation," he explained.

"Due to lack of time and imbalanced food habits, diseases are increasing in our bodies. Long ago, Buddha is said to have asked someone to bring mustard seeds from a house untouched by death. If Buddha were alive today, he would probably ask people to bring sugar from a house where no one has diabetes. Around the world, nearly 80 out of every 100 people are suffering from diabetes-related problems."
—Dr. Khadar Valli

State Farmers' Association President Kurubur Shantakumar said that people are increasingly consuming foods traditionally associated with the wealthy, while the wealthy are now turning to the foods that ordinary people once consumed. This shift is causing several health issues and filling up hospitals. Farmers must adopt organic farming and grow vegetables in their own surroundings. There are about 40 lakh pump sets in Karnataka. Farmers can use them to cultivate vegetables, but many are not doing so.

Shalini Srinivas of the Sri Sathya Sai Health and Education Service Trust and Dr. Gajanan Hegde of Nayana Kumar Multi-Speciality Hospital were present.

DELHI IN A DILEMMA

Three Lists, 90 Aspirants and One Cabinet!

SHYAM SUNDAR VATTAM
MYSURU

Peer pressure. Seers' pressure. Supporters' pressure. Add to that three competing lists and lobbying from influential quarters, and the Congress high command finds itself navigating one of the toughest political balancing acts in recent years.

While the transition of power from Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to Chief Minister-elect D.K. Shivakumar has been smooth, the real challenge has emerged in the formation of the new Cabinet.

Sources say the high command is struggling to reconcile three separate lists—one backed by Siddaramaiah, another by Shivakumar and a third prepared by influential leaders in Delhi. The situation has been further complicated by religious seers, community leaders and regional power brokers actively lobbying for their preferred candidates.

With only 32 Cabinet berths available and nearly 80-90 legislators aspiring for ministerial positions, disappointment is inevitable.

An aspiring MLA reportedly summed up the mood among hopefuls: "We have worked for the party through difficult times. If not now, when? This is our opportunity to contribute to governance." Another legislator is said to have remarked: "Every region, every community and every faction wants representation. The leadership must ensure fairness."

A senior Delhi leader, according to party insiders, expressed concern: "Cabinet formation is not merely about rewarding loyalty. It is about creating a team capable of governing effectively while maintaining political balance."

Another leader reportedly observed: "One wrong signal in the selection process can create dissatisfaction across multiple regions and communities. We have to get it right."

The challenge before the high command is formidable. Caste equations, regional representation, community interests, administrative capability, loyalty to the leadership and future electoral considerations all have to be balanced simultaneously.

For D.K. Shivakumar, the stakes are even higher. The next 24 months will effectively determine the legacy of his tenure and the Congress party's prospects in the 2028 Assembly elections.

If he fails to assemble a competent and cohesive team, administrative delivery could suffer. Internal factionalism may intensify, governance could slow down and political rivals would seize every opportunity to exploit the cracks. A weak Cabinet may also dilute the authority of the new Chief Minister at a time when decisive leadership is expected.

Conversely, a carefully chosen team combining experience, administrative talent and political balance could strengthen Shivakumar's position and help the government focus on development and delivery.

As Wednesday's swearing-in ceremony approaches, the corridors of Delhi remain abuzz. The Cabinet list is no longer merely a list of ministers—it is a test of political management, party unity and the future direction of Karnataka's ruling Congress.

QUICK READ

Helmet-borne persons rob jewellery shop

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The incident took place in the early hours of Tuesday morning and shocked the entire jewellery store owner. The robbery of a jewellery shop in T Begur in Nelamangala taluk in broad daylight has shocked the people of the area. Three bike-borne miscreants, who were wearing helmets, barged into the shop of Mahalaxmi Jewellers and Bankers belonging to Tejpal when it was raining. As soon as they entered, they brandished a knife at the owner and staff of the jewellery shop and threatened their lives. The robbers snatched 30 grams of gold ornaments worth Rs 5 lakh from the counter and fled. Meanwhile, Sunil, a shop assistant, was attacked with a knife when he tried to stop the miscreants. The police rushed to the spot and conducted an investigation. A case has been registered at the Nelamangala Rural police station and the police have launched a network on the basis of CCTV footage to trace the culprits.

Case against betting website, mobile app

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The State Cyber Command Unit (CCU) in collaboration with the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (14C) has busted a network of illegal betting websites, mobile apps and 8,750 fraudulent betting URLs across the country. Based on intelligence inputs, special cyber teams have identified organised groups operating online cricket betting platforms. These platforms were found to be operating through mirror domains, sub-domains and fake URLs. A case has been registered under sections 66C, 66D of the Information Technology Act and sections 318 (4) and 319 (2) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and an investigation has been launched, said CCU Director General of Police Pranav Mohanty. Many people have been prevented from incurring financial losses due to illegal betting networks. Technical investigations are underway, including identifying the source of the money being used for betting and the betting operators.

30 tonnes of rice spilled after lorry overturns in Hebbal

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

A lorry overturned on Hebbal main road. Due to rash and negligent driving, the driver lost control and hit the divider and the lorry overturned. The truck, bearing registration number AP 02 TE 5889, was carrying 30 tonnes of rice from Andhra Pradesh when it met with an accident.

IN-SPACe invites pvt firms to set up ground stations at ISRO's NRSC

Under the first model, firms may lease abandoned antenna pedestals and control rooms on ten- or twenty-year terms and upgrade or rebuild the structures as required.

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Bengaluru: India's space regulator has taken a step toward commercialising the country's satellite infrastructure, inviting private firms to build and operate ground stations inside one of the Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) important facilities, the National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC).

The Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe) has issued an expression of interest (EoI) seeking up to three Indian companies to establish and run satellite ground stations within the NRSC campus at Shadnagar, on the outskirts of Hyderabad.

As per the EoI, the initiative is aimed at seeding a private Ground Station as a Service (GSaaS) ecosystem in the country, enabling commercial operators to receive satellite data, track spacecraft, and sell communication support services to domestic and international clients.

The identified site spans approximately 9.15 acres within the NRSC premises, physically separated from existing agency facilities through dedicated fencing and access controls. Eligible operators would be permitted to install S-, X-, and Ka-band ground stations frequency ranges critical for modern Earth observation and telecommunications satellites, as per the EOI.

A central draw of the Shadnagar location is its protection against radio frequency interference, particularly in the Ka-band.

While portions of the 24.25–27.5 GHz spectrum have been earmarked for 5G deployment elsewhere in India, a 2.7-km exclusion zone has been mandated around five Department of Space sites, including Shadnagar. This regulatory buffer makes the campus unusually well-suited for Ka-band data reception, an increasingly essential capability as newer remote sensing missions rely on the band to downlink high-resolution imagery at speed.IN-SPACe has offered interested companies two routes to participation. This is an approach that allows relatively quick deployment. The second is a "plug-and-play" arrangement in which ISO and IN-SPACe would construct ready-to-use facilities capable of supporting antennas up to 7.5 metres in diameter, engineered to withstand wind speeds of 200 kmph. That option, however, is expected to take between 12 and 18 months before handover.

The EoI arrives against a backdrop of rapidly expanding satellite constellations and Earth observation missions globally, driving strong demand for high-capacity ground infrastructure that can receive and process large data volumes close to real time.

Pai to new CM: Look into blocking traffic for VIP movement

BENGALURU

After a motorist sat in the middle of Old Airport Road protesting against VIP culture, Infosys founder and investor TV Mohandas Pai has appealed to CM-designate DK Shivakumar to look into the issue of stopping traffic for long to allow for VIP movement.

On Old Airport Road, the police had reportedly blocked traffic for 30 minutes for the Governor's movement. The road already had choking traffic due to ongoing underpass construction work.

Amid this, traffic was stopped for some time, and a motorist sat in the middle of the road expressing severe anger, claiming that he had to urgently take his pregnant wife to the hospital.

Online pursuit of marriage costs woman Rs 23 lakh

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

An online search for a life partner ended in heartbreak and the loss of Rs 23.5 lakh for a 42-year-old woman, who fell victim to an elaborate scam.

The woman, a resident of Mathikere, said in her complaint that she had registered on a matrimony platform and was contacted by a profile in the name of Dr Vihan Mishra, who claimed to be a surgeon working in Scotland. During their weeks of conversations, he expressed interest in marriage and learnt about her family, profession, and personal life. The fraudster told her that he would travel to India on May 4, to meet her and take their relationship forward. He later told her that he arrived in Delhi but officials at the airport detained him as he was a British citizen.

The scam took a dramatic turn when a woman identifying herself as Neha Rani called the complainant, claiming to be an immigration officer.

She told Roopa that Mishra was carrying gold and a large sum of money that required clearance and conversion of the British currency into Indian rupee.

The fraudsters convinced her to transfer money to multiple bank accounts for various purported charges, including registration, clearance, and processing fees. Believing she was helping her future husband resolve legal formalities, the woman transferred a total of Rs 23.5 lakh from her two bank accounts between May 4 and 6.

Only later did she realise that the purported groom had vanished and that the entire relationship had been a carefully planned fraud. Police said an investigation is in progress.

Bellatrix partners with Korean firm for next-gen EO satellite

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

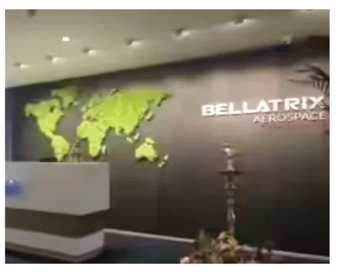
South Korean space AI company TelePIX has signed an MoU with Bengaluru-based space propulsion firm Bellatrix Aerospace to jointly develop a next-generation Earth Observation (EO) satellite designed to operate in Very Low Earth Orbit (VLEO), with a technology demonstration mission targeted for launch in 2028.The partnership will combine TelePIX's high-resolution optical payload, Chouette, with Bellatrix's VLEO satellite platform powered by its proprietary Air-Breathing Electric Propulsion (ABEP) system.

The companies said the collaboration aims to develop a satellite capable of sustained operations at altitudes between 150km and 250km, enabling persistent high-resolution EO and geospatial data collection.

The MoU was signed at TelePIX's SpaceLab facility in Daejeon, South Korea. Under the agreement, Bellatrix will provide the satellite bus, including propulsion, power, thermal control and attitude control systems, while TelePIX will supply the Chouette optical payload and support system integration, according to a statement issued.

VLEO satellites operate significantly closer to Earth than conventional Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellites, offering substantially higher imaging resolution.

The segment is expected to see growing demand in defence, disaster response, environmental monitoring and precision observation applications.However, operating at such low altitudes presents a major technical challenge due to atmospheric drag, which can rapidly degrade satellite orbits.



Commercially viable VLEO constellations could deliver "game-changing" improvements in imaging resolution compared with conventional EO observation systems operating in higher orbits.

—Rohan M Ganapathy, Bellatrix CEO

The companies said Bellatrix's ABEP technology, which uses atmospheric particles as propellant, will help enable long-duration operations in the VLEO environment. TelePIX said its Chouette payload has been specifically designed for VLEO missions and features a wide-swath imaging system capable of covering more than twice the observation width of comparable satellites currently in the market.

The payload will also leverage the company's artificial intelligence-based image processing capabilities. They will also explore opportunities for future constellation deployments and commercial VLEO missions following in-orbit validation, as per the statement. Calling VLEO a key frontier in next-generation Earth observation, TelePIX CEO Seongick Cho said the partnership would help TelePIX extend its optical payload technology into new operational domains while expanding its global footprint.

Family court cannot resolve civil suit: HC

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

The jurisdiction of a family court cannot extend to resolve a civil suit, the High Court has observed.

Extending the Family Court's jurisdiction to every title suit involving a challenge to a pedigree would potentially dilute the specialised focus of that forum and overlap with the settled functions of the civil court under the Specific Relief Act, Justice K Manmadha Rao noted in his April 28 order while quashing an order passed by a Family Court of Bengaluru.

A woman and her two children challenged the order of the family court, passed on February 25, 2020, holding that it has jurisdiction to entertain the suit. Originally, one Parvathamma wife of late JP Narayana Swamy, filed the suit in 2017, seeking a direction that the petitioner woman in the present case is not the legally wedded wife of her husband Narayana Swamy, and the two children are not his.In addition, she sought a permanent injunction restraining the petitioners from claiming any rights in the estate of the deceased man and from asserting themselves as his wife and children. However, when the proceedings were pending, Parvathamma died on February 24, 2020.

Thereafter, two of her relatives joined the litigation in her place. In their challenge to the February 25, 2020 order, the woman and her two children argued that the family court lacked jurisdiction to try a suit pertaining to a property dispute. Justice Manmadha Rao noted that the Family Courts Act is a specialised statute designed to provide a simplified, conciliation-based forum for family-related grievances, and the same cannot be expanded to resolve civil suits.

The judge also pointed out that the original plaintiff, Parvathamma and her husband Narayana Swamy are no more and hence the validity of the marriage of the petitioner woman cannot now be looked into in such a scenario.In the present instance, the challenge is not aimed at resolving a marital friction between spouses, but rather at determining the status of individuals to facilitate claims over the estate of Narayana Swamy.

Consequently, the dispute takes on the character of a complex civil litigation, which is traditionally best suited for the adjudication of a Civil Court, the judge added. A nuanced distinction must be drawn between a matrimonial case seeking the preservation or dissolution of a marriage and a suit for declaration of legal character intended to settle rights over an estate, Justice Rao observed while quashing the order passed by the family court.

Demand to appoint Dinesh Gundu Rao as DyCM

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Leaders of Gandhinagar assembly constituency submitted a petition in front of KPCC.

They demanded that, Dinesh Gundurao should be given the post of Deputy Chief Minister. Former BBMP member T Mallesh has submitted a petition. Block Presidents Saravan, Satyanarayana, Gandhinagar Guarantee Scheme Committee President Umesh Babu Raghunath, Raj Karthik, Shashi Kumar, Queen Elizabeth Chakravarthy and many Congress leaders were present.

On this occasion, many leaders spoke to reporters. They demanded that their favourite leader Dinesh Gundurao be given the post of Deputy Chief Minister in the state government. They said that Dinesh Gundurao has played an important role in strengthening the Congress party's organization, pro-people work and conveying the party's ideology to the people.

His contribution to the growth of the party and the success of the government is immense, and considering his experience and leadership, it is appropriate to give him the post of DyCM, they said.

Man attacks in-laws with machete over family dispute

BENGALURU

A family dispute took a violent turn when a man allegedly stormed into an apartment complex armed with a machete on May 28 and attacked his in-laws in broad daylight.

According to the complaint filed by Syed Ahmed, 54, the incident occurred amid an ongoing legal battle involving his daughter, Syeda Neha, and her estranged husband, Farhan Mubarak, a resident of RT Nagar. Ahmed, an employee with the public works dept residing at the BDA apartment in Kumbalagodu, said Mubarak married his elder daughter, Neha, six years ago, and they have a son. However, marital differences developed between the couple, following which Neha left with her son to her parents' house.

Ahmed said his daughter, currently working in Mumbai, filed a divorce case against Mubarak.

IMPROPER HEALTHCARE

Obesity surge sharper among K'taka women: Survey

CH NEWS, BENGALURU

Despite growing fitness culture, obesity continues to rise, more sharply among women across Karnataka, according to the National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-6 report, released recently.

The survey, conducted in 2023-24, found that 41.2 percent of women and 36.4 percent of men in Karnataka, out of a sample size of 30,260 persons are either overweight or obese. This marks a sharp increase from the 2019-21 survey findings, when 30.2 percent of women and 30.9 percent of men fell into the same category. Urban women appear to be the most affected, with nearly 51 percent classified as overweight or obese.

Doctors spoke to attributed the trend largely to urban lifestyles marked by sedentary habits, unhealthy diets, easy access to junk food and sugary drinks through quick-commerce platforms, and increased alcohol consumption.

Highlighting factors that particularly affect women, Dr KS Harshith, Consultant, Internal Medicine, Aster RV Hospital, said research has shown a steady rise in obesity among women living in urban India over the past two decades. Many females live in places where they would not be safe to pursue outdoor physical activity.

Younger females may experience restrictions on their ability to exercise outdoors due to numerous societal factors, he said.

According to Dr Nidhin Mohan, senior consultant, general medicine, Narayana Health City, obesity among women is also linked to polyendocrine metabolic ovarian syndrome (PMOS). women also continue to shoulder a disproportionate share of household responsibilities in addition to their professional commitments. This leaves them with less time to focus on their own health and fitness, he said.

Doctors also point to social perceptions around body weight. In many households, particularly among older generations, weight loss is sometimes incorrectly viewed as a sign of poor health.

They note that south Indians may have a genetic predisposition towards obesity, especially abdominal obesity, although genetics alone cannot explain the sharp rise seen in recent years. The increase comes at a time when Bengaluru has witnessed a growing fitness culture, with more gyms, running groups, and wellness communities than before.

If you chop off a limb, people will follow law: HC

BENGALURU

The High Court refused bail to a 23-year-old engineering student accused of rape and triggered a debate over judicial rhetoric and criminal justice in a constitutional democracy after a judge said "law has lost its teeth" and suggested harsher punishments could deter crime.

Law has lost its teeth because we don't deal with offenders firmly. If you chop off a leg or a hand, then people will, perhaps, realise to comply with law. Because we have a democracy, everybody takes advantage of it, Justice R Nataraj said during a hearing on the student's bail plea.

The accused has been in judicial custody since early April and faces allegations of sexually assaulting a former classmate in 2023. The judge said crimes were being committed casually because offenders were not dealt with firmly and contrasted the situation with punishments in some West Asian countries.

QUICK READ

Free milk distributed at Nagamangal AIIMS Hospital

CH NEWS, MANDYA
As part of World Milk Day celebrations, the Mandya District Milk Union distributed free milk and kits to patients at AIIMS Hospital in Nagamangala taluk. Chief Medical Officer Dr Shivakumar said World Milk Day highlights importance of milk and its health benefits, noting it provides essential protein. Sat Kirtinath Swamiji of Adichunchanagiri Math said many people do not understand the value of milk and should include it in daily diet for better health. Union officials Appaj Gowda, Lakshmi Narayan, Manamul officer Prapul, Prashantha, Sub-Inspector Ravikumar and Principal Ravi also attended the programme. Officials praised the event for promoting health awareness locally.

Public auction planned for unused materials

CH NEWS, GADAG
The Gadag Zilla Panchayat has decided to dispose of unused materials through a public auction after assessing their value. The Government Industrial Training Institute principal has been directed to inspect the items and fix the qualifying price. A report has been submitted after evaluation of the scrap materials found in the office premises. The auction will be held on 12 June 2026 at 12 noon in the Zilla Panchayat Hall. The items can be inspected during office hours. For more information, people may contact the Zilla Panchayat office as stated by Deputy Secretary C R Mundaragi in an official statement.

Sri Ganapati Temple anniversary on June 05

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA
The 13th anniversary of Sri Kshipra Prasad Maha Ganapati Temple in Chitradurga will be held on June 5 and 6 at Dhavalagiri Layout. The two-day event will include religious rituals such as swasthi punyahavachana, panchagavya homa, rudrabhishek, and maha mangalarati. Devotees will participate in prayers and receive prasad after rituals. On June 5 evening, a musical program will be presented by Hansgana Kala Balaga led by K Gangadhar followed by distribution of teertha prasad. On June 6, special rituals including Navagraha homa, poornahuti, and decoration of the deity will take place. Local children will present cultural programmes in evening there.

New bridge brings hope to rural villages

The MLA assured priority for rural development in Bidar South, focusing on roads, bridges, water, education, and health

BIDAR

A new bridge near Sindhola village in Bidar South constituency has brought relief to more than forty villages.

The bridge constructed at a cost of about seven crore rupee s near Sindhola village was inaugurated as a long-awaited solution for people facing pro blems during the rainy season.

Speaking at the event, Bidar South MLA Dr Shailendra Beldale said the bridge has ended years of hardship for nearly forty villages and improved access for farmers and students.

Villagers and farmers said the bridge has made travel easier during monsoon and solved a long standing problem of disconnected villages that affected daily life education and healthcare.

The MLA assured that priority will be given to rural development projects including roads bridges drinking water education and health to improve living standards in Bidar South constituency.

Leaders villagers and officials attended the inauguration and expressed happiness over the completion of the bridge which they said will transform daily life in the region. It will help farmers reach their lands students reach schools and patients reach hospitals especially during heavy rains when connectivity becomes difficult across villages in Bidar South area. Farmers said the new bridge has reduced travel time and improved safety while also supporting agricultural trade and daily movement between surrounding villages during monsoon season.

The project costing about seven crore rupees is seen as an important step in rural infrastructure development and is expected to support education health services and local economy in the coming years. Local residents expressed gratitude to the MLA for fulfilling a long pending demand and said the bridge has brought a major change in their lives by connecting villages that were earlier cut off during rainy season. They added that earlier they faced serious difficulties in education transport and medical emergencies but now the bridge has made life easier and safer for all surrounding villages in Bidar South constituency. Officials and villagers said the bridge will remain a symbol of development and cooperation in the region for many years ahead further development works will continue to improve rural connectivity and livelihoods.

Karnataka coast surfs into global sporting spotlight

SURATHKAL

The waves of the Arabian Sea are increasingly becoming a platform for sporting ambition rather than just a source of livelihood, as surfing gains strong popularity along Karnataka's coastline.

Once considered a niche international sport, surfing has now developed into a growing movement in coastal Karnataka, with Tannirbhavi Beach and Sasihithlu Beach emerging as prominent surfing hubs attracting national attention.

The sport's expansion has been driven largely by grassroots initiatives from surfing organisations and training academies, which have introduced the activity to hundreds of young people, many from fishing families. Free coaching and equipment support have helped remove financial barriers and opened new opportunities for coastal youth.

The ongoing NMPT Indian Open Surfing Championship at Tannirbhavi Beach highlights the rapid rise of the sport, with surfers from different states participating in competitive conditions that test endurance, balance and technical skill on the waves.

Officials associated with the event said surfing demands a combination of physical strength, mental focus and deep understanding of sea conditions. Athletes must constantly read wave patterns and respond quickly while performing manoeuvres on moving water.

The inclusion of surfing in the 2026 Asian Games has further boosted enthusiasm among young surfers, making national-level championships an important stepping stone for those aiming to represent India internationally.

Participants across age categories, including juniors, women and senior surfers, are competing in structured divisions that encourage wider participation and talent development.

According to organisers, the growing popularity of surfing is transforming coastal Karnataka into a recognised adventure sports destination. What was once a recreational activity limited to a few enthusiasts is now evolving into a structured sporting ecosystem.

With rising participation, institutional support and expanding visibility, surfing is increasingly seen as a pathway for coastal youth to pursue sporting careers and achieve international recognition, turning the region's shoreline into a launchpad for global dreams.

Pollution board flags Udupi STP violations

UDUPI

Officials said urban expansion has strained wastewater systems; over 300 of Udupi's 423 apartments lack treatment plants, burdening the municipal STP

The Karnataka State Pollution Control Board is examining a proposal to impose an environmental compensation penalty of ₹9.49 crore on the Udupi City Municipal Council over alleged violations in the functioning of its Nittur Sewage Treatment Plant (STP).

The recommendation follows a detailed inspection report by the District Pollution Control Board, which pointed out deficiencies in sewage treatment operations, maintenance practices and environmental compliance between 2017 and March 2026.

Officials said rapid urban expansion has added pressure on the city's wastewater management system. Udupi currently has 423 apartment complexes, and more than 300 are reportedly functioning without independent sewage treatment facilities, increasing the burden on the municipal STP.

The existing plant has a treatment capacity of 12 MLD and is currently handling around 8 MLD of wastewater. However, authorities have warned that future urban growth could strain the system unless upgrades are implemented in time.

The State Pollution Control Board has formally registered the case and is expected to review technical assessments before making a final decision on the proposed penalty. A key hearing involving the Municipal Commissioner has been scheduled for June 9.

Municipal authorities have defended their position, stating that steps are already being taken to strengthen infrastructure. Commissioner Mahantesh Hangargi said a new 20 MLD sewage treatment plant is under construction at an estimated cost of ₹30 crore, which is expected to improve wastewater management capacity.

He added that the upcoming facility will help address compliance concerns raised by environmental authorities and support the city's growing population needs.

The outcome of the June 9 hearing is expected to determine the next course of action, including whether the proposed penalty will be imposed or revised after review of technical and administrative responses from the civic body.

Chitradurga Gears Up for Monsoon; Officials Told to Ensure Seed, Fertiliser Availability

CHITRADURGA

Chitradurga district has completed extensive preparations for the upcoming monsoon season, with Deputy Commissioner T. Venkatesh directing officials to ensure the timely supply of quality seeds and fertilisers to farmers across the district.

Chairing a district-level Task Force meeting on Tuesday, Venkatesh stressed that there should be no shortage of agricultural inputs during the sowing season. He instructed officials to closely monitor the quality of seeds supplied through both government agencies and private dealers, making germination testing mandatory before distribution.

The Deputy Commissioner also warned against the sale of substandard or loose seeds and called for strict action against violators. He urged agriculture officers to maintain accurate data on seed distribution and crop patterns across taluks to help address any future farmer grievances.

This year, seed distribution will be carried out through the K-Kisan mobile application. Officials have been directed to assist farmers with registration, uploading land records and completing the digital application process to avoid technical difficulties.

Joint Director of Agriculture B. Manjunath said adequate stocks of seeds and fertilisers have been arranged across the district's 189 gram panchayats, 22 hoblis and 1,009 villages. He added that sowing is expected to cover up to 30,000 hectares of millets, 1 lakh hectares of maize and over 1.15 lakh hectares of groundnut.

Demand grows to make Priyank Kharge as DCM

KALABURAGI

Congress leaders from Gundagurthi village have demanded that Priyank Kharge be made Deputy Chief Minister in the new cabinet.

They said Priyank Kharge played an important role in bringing Congress to power in the state along with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and D K Shivakumar. Supporters said he exposed several corruption cases, including the PSI scam, during the previous BJP government. Leaders said his hard work, administration skills and pro development thinking helped him build his own political identity.

Community drives revive rural school in Sullia

SULLIA

A series of community-led initiatives by Mukkooru Nesara Yuvaka Mandala has significantly improved facilities at the Government Higher Primary School in Mukkooru, Peruvaje village of Sullia taluk.

The youth organisation began its efforts three years ago with a social media campaign titled "Let Us Donate Notebooks," aimed at providing wri ting materials for schoolchildren. The initial target of 400 notebooks was achieved within just two days, thanks to contributions from former students, villagers and well-wishers.

Encouraged by the overwhe lming response, the campaign has continued annually. This ye ar, although the target remained 400 notebooks, donations exceeded expectations, enabling the distribution of 855 noteboo ks to students. One donor alone sponsored the entire requirement for the school.

The surplus funds, amounting to ₹25,000, were used to install an inverter at the school to ensu re uninterrupted power supply. In addition, other donors contributed umbrellas, lighting equi pment and various learning aids for both students and teachers. Earlier efforts by the group had also facilitated the installation of a projector for classroom learning. Under another initiative titled "Our School, Our Contribution," local residents contri buted additional infrastr ucture such as a hand-washing unit, ceiling fans, T-shirts for studen ts and support for a nutrition garden within the school premises.

Officials reported mixed monsoon rainfall, with some taluks receiving above-normal rain and others experiencing below-average levels early in the season

DC orders monsoon prep for farmers

CHITRADURGA

District Commissioner T. Venkatesh has instructed officials to make complete preparations for the upcoming monsoon season so that farmers do not face shortage of seeds and fertilizers in Chitradurga district. He said seeds supplied to farmers must be of high quality and every batch should pass germination testing before distribution while private dealers will also be closely monitored and strict action will be taken against those selling poor or loose seeds in the market.

He directed officials to use the K-Kisan software app for seed distribution and ensure farmers receive proper guidance for registration, app usage and uploading land records without confusion during the monsoon season. He warned against artificial shortages and hoarding of fertilizers and seeds and asked officials to hold preparatory meetings in all taluks and verify supply levels and targets of distributors.

Joint Director of Agriculture B. Manjunath said arrangements are ready and crops like maize, groundnut, ragi and togari will be cultivated across the district based on climate suitability.

Officials shared rainfall data showing mixed monsoon trends across taluks while some areas received above normal rainfall and others received less rainfall compared to average levels in the early season.

District officials also confirmed that preparatory meetings are being conducted and farmers across the district are already beginning land preparation and sowing activities in several taluks.

Chitradurga district falls under the central dry zone and has an average annual rainfall of about 540 millimetres with taluk wise variations recorded across the region during early months of the year.

More details from the meeting showed that the district has over three lakh farmers and crop planning is being carried out carefully for the monsoon season.

We are focusing on maize, groundnut, ragi and improved togari varieties suitable for dry zone farming conditions in the district.

Officials said timely supply of seeds and fertilizers will be ensured with proper guidance to farmers through the K-Kisan app and monitoring system.

Senior officials including agriculture department staff, tahsildars and district level officers attended the meeting and discussed monsoon preparedness measures in detail.

GOVERNMENT WELFARE ACCESS

Farmer ID registration gathers pace in coastal Karnataka

BANTWAL

The Agriculture Department has intensified efforts to complete enrolment under the Centre's Farmer ID programme, as over 1.18 lakh farmers in Dakshina Kannada and Udupi districts are yet to register.

The Farmer ID system has been made mandatory to access several agricultural welfare schemes and financial assistance programmes. While a large number of farmers have already completed registration, a significant section still remains outside the database.

According to data released by the department, 1,39,119 farmers in Dakshina Kannada and 1,29,619 farmers in Udupi have successfully registered under the scheme. However, 69,526 farmers in Dakshina Kannada and 49,163 in Udupi are yet to obtain their Farmer IDs.

The digital identification initiative is part of the Union Government's AgriStack programme, aimed at building a comprehensive national database of farmers. It integrates land records, Aadhaar details and bank account information to enable transparent and direct transfer of benefits.

Officials have warned that schemes such as PM-Kisan, crop insurance, drought relief and other subsidies may increasingly require Farmer ID authentication. Farmers who fail to register risk being excluded from such government support in the future.

Agriculture Department officials said multiple challenges have slowed down the registration process. Many farmers are currently living outside their native villages in other states or abroad, while others remain unaware of the registration requirements.The process involves e-KYC verification, Aadhaar-linked mobile authentication and digital consent submission, requiring farmers to visit registration centres in person. Registration facilities have been set up at Raitha Samparka Kendras, Grama One centres and government offices across the region. Officials have urged remaining farmers to complete the process at the earliest to avoid disruption in accessing welfare benefits.

KAAMS system issues raised by Teachers Association

KOLAR

A delegation of the District Government Primary School Teachers' Association, led by President Anil Kumar, met Deputy Director of Public Instruction (DDPI) Almas Parveen Taj and congratulated her on assuming charge.

During the meeting, the delegation held detailed discussions on academic, administrative and technical issues affecting government school teachers across the district.

The representatives highlighted difficulties related to the KAAMS system, attendance and punctuality concerns, grant of Earned Leave for teachers who participated in the SC and OBC census last year and issues concerning GPT teachers. Association members said these challenges were affecting daily functioning of teachers and urged the Education Department to take immediate steps to resolve them. Responding to the delegation, DDPI Almas Parveen Taj assured that all legitimate issues raised by teachers would be addressed on a priority basis.

QUICK READ

Rs 15 crore released for NREGA works

CH NEWS, CHIKKABALLAPURA

Chikkaballapura district has received Rs 15.39 crore for NREGA material cost under the government scheme aimed at rural employment generation. It supports providing 100 days of guaranteed work annually to unskilled labour families with equal daily wage of Rs 370 for men and women. Officials said the scheme helps create rural assets and encourages more job days in villages. Gram panchayats are instructed to prioritise material payments on a first in first out basis for ongoing works. CEO Dr Y Naveen Bhat urged people to actively participate and take full benefit of the NREGA programme in the district.

Power disruption announced for Madikeri areas

CH NEWS, MADIKERI

Maintenance work on the F1 Parane feeder of Murnadu 33/11 KV sub-station will be carried out on June 4 from 10 am to 5 pm, leading to power disruption in several areas of Madikeri taluk. The supply will be affected in Balamuri, Parane, Bavali, Kaikadu, Kirandadu, Edapala, Kadanga, Karada, Cheyyandane, Chelawara, Marandoda, Kokeri and surrounding villages Executive Engineer Ramachandra of the maintenance department has requested the public to cooperate during the shutdown for essential works and ensure uninterrupted future supply in the region as a precaution measure said officials in a statement issued today for public awareness and safety reasons.

Guruvandana program scheduled on June 6-7

CH NEWS, CHITRADURGA

The Sri Niranjanaswamy Gaddigge Trust will organise Guruvandana programs for Sri Alak Niranjanaswamy, Sri Satyappa Swamy, and Sri Egalu Swamy on June 6 and 7 at Avadoota Peetha in Bachhaboranahatti village, Chitradurga taluk. The event will be held in the premises of Shivapura Sukshetra Basavanna Temple. Religious leaders and devotees will participate in the programme, with puja rituals led by Sri Niranjanaswamy's disciple Iranna Swamy. On June 6 evening, Ganga Puja and Akhand Bhajan will be conducted, followed by a late-night discourse. On June 7, a procession and final worship at the sacred throne will take place with devotees' participation there.

Congress leaders demand action over viral audio

Srinivas Dasakariappa denied audio allegations, saying he met Siraj once and had no election deal or involvement

DAVANAGERE

Anger has erupted in Davanagere Congress after a viral audio allegedly involving former minister Zameer Ahmed and Mohammed Siraj sparked controversy. KPCC General Secretary D. Basavaraj said Zameer Ahmed should be expelled from the party over the viral audio issue and demanded strict action.

Former mayor Chaman Saab challenged Zameer Ahmed to prove innocence and take oath at a chosen place if the audio is false. Basavaraj alleged that SDPI related activities and money distribution were raised in the audio and demanded forensic investigation and FSL analysis while suggesting voluntary tests for clarity.

Srinivas Dasakariappa said allegations in the audio are false stating he met Siraj once and denied any election deal or involvement with Zameer Ahmed. Party leaders have submitted complaints seeking investigation and urged authorities to verify the viral audio through proper technical and legal examination.

Leaders also raised concerns about election time money distribution claims mentioned in the audio and called for accountability from all individuals involved.

Chaman Saab and supporters insisted that if the allegations are false the concerned leaders should publicly clarify and take oath to prove honesty.

Srinivas Dasakariappa further clarified that he has no direct connection with the accused leaders and urged investigation into the origin of the viral audio clip. Party functionaries said the matter has created political tension in Davanagere and they expect higher authorities to take appropriate steps after verification.

Officials said the complaint has been forwarded for technical analysis and law enforcement agencies may examine the authenticity of the audio recording. The leaders reiterated that internal discipline and transparency are essential for strengthening public trust in the party during sensitive political situations.

Senior Congress members said they will await forensic results and party high command direction before taking further disciplinary decisions while urging calm among workers and supporters in Davanagere district.

They said unity is important until truth is established and appealed to avoid spreading unverified information further on social media.

Udupi villagers seek urgent repair of Nidamballi-Kota road

UDUPI

Residents under Kalyanpura Gr am Panchayat limits have renewed their demand for immediate repair of the severely da maged Nidamballi-Kota road, citing years of neglect and growing inconvenience to daily commuters.

The 1.5 to 2-km stretch connecting Nazareth House on the Kota road to Nidamballi Junction has deteriorated significan tly over the past two decades. The asphalt laid nearly 20 years ago has completely worn out, leaving the road filled with large potholes.

With the onset of the monsoon, rainwater collects in the craters, turning the stretch into a muddy and hazardous route for motorists. Locals say the situation worsens during heavy rains, making travel extremely difficult and unsafe.

Residents alleged that repeated appeals to authorities and elected representatives have not resulted in any concrete action. They claim that officials often cite lack of funds, while public representatives have shown limited urgency in addressing the issue.

Two-wheeler riders are among the most affected, with several minor accidents reported due to skidding while trying to avoid potholes. Commuters say navigating the stretch has become increasingly risky, particularly during wet weather conditions.

Auto-rickshaw drivers, who frequently use the route, also face financial strain due to rising vehicle maintenance costs. Continuous damage caused by the poor road condition has led to frequent tyre replacements and increased servicing expenses.

Former Gram Panchayat president Nagaraj said that a proposal has already been prepared to upgrade the road into a concrete stretch.

However, he noted that the project has been delayed due to the non-availability of government grants during his tenure.

Vijayapura Farmers Demand Fair Insurance Payout

VIJAYAPURA

Arvind Kulkarni said farmers insured crops with Oriental Insurance suffered losses due to heavy rains, and a joint survey ordered 25% compensation payment

Farmers and members of Akhand Karnataka Raitha Sangha staged a protest in Vijayapura district against the unscientific release of crop insurance compensation under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana. They gathered near the insurance company office and submitted a petition to the Joint Director of the Agriculture Department and the District Collector office staff.

Akhand Karnataka Raitha Sangha state president Arvind Kulkarni said that during the 2025 and 26 monsoon season, farmers in the district had paid crop insurance premiums to Oriental Insurance Company, a government recognized insurer in Vijayapura district. Due to heavy rains throughout the district during the monsoon season, standing crops were washed away, causing major losses to farmers. In such an emergency, the government and the designated insurance company have the responsibility to support farmers and provide relief through crop insurance. According to officials, a joint survey was conducted as per district administration order and insurers were directed to pay 25 percent of assessed crop loss compensation.

The farmers said that despite the order, the insurance company released only 1,000 to 2,800 rupees per acre instead of the expected amount of around 5,000 rupees under the 25 percent interim compensation rule. This led to strong dissatisfaction among farmers who demanded a review of the process and fair payment as per government norms to all affected farmers.

They urged that at least five thousand rupees per acre should be released as interim compensation and that the system should be made transparent and scientific. Insurance company district in charge Sampath Kumar visited protest site and assured remaining compensation would be released by June 15.

Villagers protest KPS school merger plan in Hunsur

HUNSUR

Villagers from many villages in Hunsur taluk protested in front of the Taluk BEO office opposing the KPS Magnet project and demanding that nearby government schools should not be merged with Gurupura and Kattemalalawadi KPS schools.

They gathered under the leadership of AIDSO and the Public Education Save Committee and raised concerns about closure of rural schools.

After the protest they submitted a petition to the Field Education Officers of Hunsur, Kala Nayak. The officials accepted the petition and assured the villagers that no government schools would be merged or closed.

Bovi community seeks ministerial posts

MAGADI

A delegation from the Bovi community in Magadi has urged senior Congress leaders to consider ministerial berths for A.C. Srinivas and H.C. Balakrishna in the new state cabinet. Bovi community leaders led by president B.T. Venkatesh said both MLAs are capable of improving development in the district and representing backward communities effectively.

A.C. Srinivas, who represents Pulikeshinagar constituency, has previously served as Zilla Panchayat president and played an active role in Congress organisation and party work. H.C. Balakrishna, MLA from Magadi, is known for working on the overall development of the taluk, and leaders say giving ministerial posts to both will benefit the district.

Speaking at a press conference in Magadi, the community urged Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar to take a positive decision while also congratulating party leadership. They expressed hope that the request would be considered soon for the development of backward communities and the region. Several leaders and community members including Ramesh Mangallu, Tirumal Ramakrishnappa, Govindaraju, Nagaraju, Belagwadi Channigappa, Gattipur Siddaling, Arali Katte Siddaling, Hanumapur Rajanna and others attended the meeting and supported the demand unanimously. Leaders said the move would strengthen representation of backward communities and help ensure better development outcomes across Ramanagara district.

Almatti tourism becomes costly after fee revision

ALMATTI

Almatti tourism has turned expensive after a recent revision in entry charges, sparking widespread debate among visitors and local stakeholders. The Krishna Bhagya Jala Nigam (KBJNL) has revised ticket prices across various attractions, including Rock Garden, Krishna Garden, Lav-Kusha Garden, Musical Fountain, and other recreational zones spread over the 77-acre complex.

Under the new structure, the daily revenue from entry fees is estimated at ₹1.17 lakh. Additionally, revenue from the water park is expected to bring in ₹60 lakh annually, while boating activities will contribute around ₹11 lakh per year. Overall, the site has been leased for a record annual contract value of ₹4.26 crore, the highest bid received so far.

Officials stated that the revised pricing is part of an effort to improve revenue generation and maintain the large tourism infrastructure. However, the increase in entry fees has triggered dissatisfaction among tourists and photographers, who argue that the pricing is becoming unaffordable for common visitors.

The ticket structure now sets entry at ₹15 for children and ₹30 for adults in the Rock Garden, while other major attractions have higher rates of up to ₹60 for adults. Children above six years are charged full entry fees, while only those below three years are exempt. Many visitors have raised concerns that the classification of children differs from standard transport norms, where concessions are provided up to 12 years.

Photographers have also protested the hike in photoshoot charges, which have been fixed at ₹2,000 per couple for shoots inside and outside the gardens. Earlier, the rate was ₹1,000, though separate entry fees were still applicable. They argue that despite the increased charges, basic facilities such as changing rooms are inadequate, forcing couples to struggle during shoots.

Officials urge action against child labour system

KARWAR

Additional Deputy Commissioner Sajid Mulla has directed officials to strengthen efforts to eliminate child labour and juvenile labour in the district. He was speaking while presiding over the District Child Labour Project Society meeting, district level task force meeting, executive committee meeting and advisory committee meeting held at the District Commissioner's Office Hall.

He said strict action will be taken against those emplo ying child labour through inspections by teams from different departments, and legal action will follow as per law. He added that depar tmental coordination is necessary, and taluk level meetings sho uld be held every thr ee mon ths to review progress and in crease awareness on the Chi ld Labour Prohibition Act.

2 crore emergency drinking water grant released to six taluks, with CEO directing MLA-approved action plans for quick implementation

Chitradurga district approves two crore water projects

CHITRADURGA

District Water and Sanitation Mission meeting was held at the Zilla Panchayat Hall in Chitradurga on Tuesday under the chairmanship of GP CEO Dr. Akash, where key decisions on drinking water works were discussed and approved.

Dr. Akash instructed officials to prioritize reboring of 10 percent of low yielding borewells in each taluk and prepare action plans, stressing that new borewells should be avoided unless necessary and groundwater conservation must be strengthened through recharge and rainwater harvesting projects.

A total grant of Rs 2 crore un der the emergency drinking water scheme has been released to six taluks, and the CEO directed that action plans must be appro ved by local MLAs without delay for timely implementation.

Under the approved plan, works were sanctioned across Challakere, Chitradurga, Hiriyur, Hosadurga, Holalkere and Molakalmuru taluks, including new borewells, reboring, pipelines, pump motors, flushing works and tanker supply arran gements to address drinking wa ter needs. Officials said Challakere received Rs 30 lakh with 18 works, Chitradurga Rs 30 lakh with 19 works, Hiriyur Rs 40 lakh with multiple borewell and pipeline projects, Hosadurga Rs 30 lakh, Holalkere Rs 40 lakh, and Molakalmuru Rs 30 lakh, all approved in the meeting. Senior officials including Babu, Jayalakshmi, Amarnath Jain, Manjunath, Diwakar and other department representatives attended the meeting and supported the implementation of drinking water projects acro ss the district. CEO Dr Akash emphasized that without inclusion of 10 percent reboring pla ns in future proposals, no new works will be approved, and officials were instructed to convince elected representatives about groundwater conservation, efficient use of funds, and timely execution of all appro ved drinking water supply wor ks in every taluk of the district.

Meeting concluded with approval of all action plans and focus on sustainable water management across drought prone regions in district. Authorities also noted that monitoring mecha nisms will be strengthened to ensure transparency, quality execution, and timely completion of all sanctioned water supply projects across district.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLANNING

Disaster management meet stresses coordination

MADIKERI

District Commissioner S J Somashekar directed officials assigned for disaster management to work in coordination and revisit their jurisdiction to take necessary precautionary measures during monsoon season.

He instructed officials to visit flood and landslide prone areas, shift people to care centers during heavy rain, check school and Anganwadi buildings, and ensure daily weather updates are shared with the public.

Officials and department heads discussed emergency funding, infrastructure repair, and coordination under NDRF guidelines.

CEO Anand Prakash Meena stre ssed release of funds to Gram Panchayats and stre ngthening safety of school buildings. Police Superintendent Bindumani instructed inter department coordination, warning systems, and precaution in flood and landslide zones.

TP EO Shekhar reported relief measures, food kits distribution, relocation of families, and monitoring of sensitive areas. Engineers and officials were directed to clear drains, maintain electricity poles, stock medicines, and prevent misinformation. Authorities also highlighted road repair delays, JCB avai lability, volunteer support, fuel supply issues, and relocation of six families near Koyanadu area. Officials also emphasized regular inspection of highways and installation of warning signboards in disaster prone stretches.

They said electricity transformers and poles must be monitored continuously to avoid accidents during heavy rainfall periods. Health officials were asked to keep primary health centers stocked with essential medicines to prevent disease spread.

Authorities stressed that all officials must coordinate with local volunteers and maintain updated contact information.

They further warned that failure to complete pending disaster related works would not be accepted in future. Meeting concluded with approval of coordinated disaster preparedness plans across Kodagu district for monsoon safety measures.

Demand raised for Shivananda Patil's ministerial post

VIJAYAPURA

Former minister and Basavan Bagevadi MLA Shivananda S Patil should be made Deputy Chief Minister in the new cabinet and given Medical Education portfolio, demanded Anil Hosamani and Layappa Ingale of Gangadhar Koralli Pratishthan.

He said Shivananda S Patil earlier served as Health and Family Welfare Minister and made strong contribution to state health system.

He developed Mother and Child Hospital and Trauma Center at Vijayapura District Hospital and improved facilities by providing water connection from Tajbavadi and upgraded the hospital to a model hospital and strengthened taluk hospitals with basic services. Leaders said he also served as Minister of Agricultural Produce Market, Sugarcane and Textiles in the previous Siddaramaiah government and implemented pro farmer and pro people programmes. They urged the Congress high command to consider him for Deputy Chief Minister in the new cabinet with Medical Education portfolio.

QUICK READ

Hyderabad land fetches Rs 204 crore acre

Hyderabad

Land prices in Hyderabad's Raidurgam IT corridor continue to rise sharply, with a 5.09-acre plot sold for Rs 204 crore per acre in an e-auction conducted by the Telangana Industrial Infrastructure Corporation (TGIIC). Hyderabad-based Vamsiram Builders purchased the land for Rs 1,038.36 crore, 46.8 per cent above the minimum price set by the government. TGIIC said the auction of two plots in the area generated Rs 2,529 crore in revenue. Land prices in Raidurgam have increased by 42 per cent compared to last year.

Court jails elderly man for assault

Hyderabad

A Hyderabad court sentenced a 70-year-old man to 20 years in prison for sexually assaulting a minor girl in May 2023. The XII Additional Sessions Judge found him guilty under the IPC and POCSO Act. The man lured the girl into his shop, assaulted her, showed obscene material, and threatened her. The victim told her uncle, leading to a police complaint. The court also imposed a fine of 5,000.

Burglar steals tablet from Punjab National Bank

Hoshiarpur

A burglar broke into a Punjab National Bank branch in Uchi Bassi village near Dasuya on Monday night, apparently intending to steal cash. However, the intruder failed to locate or access the bank's strong room and left without taking any money. The break-in came to light when local residents noticed damage to an iron window grille and informed police. Senior manager Nikhil Bhagat said bank officials reviewed CCTV footage after reaching the branch. Authorities confirmed that no cash was stolen, but a digital tablet was taken by the accused.

India rejects Pak-EU remarks on J&K

India reaffirmed that Jammu and Kashmir is an internal matter and rejected outside comments.

NEW DELHI

India on Tuesday firmly rejected references to Jammu and Kashmir made in the joint statement issued after the eighth Pakistan-European Union Strategic Dialogue held in Islamabad.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said the comments were unwarranted and concerned a matter that is entirely internal to India.

Speaking at a weekly media briefing in New Delhi, MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal responded to questions about the joint communique, which mentioned that Pakistan had briefed the European Union on the Jammu and Kashmir issue during the dialogue.

Jaiswal said India categorically rejects such references and reiterated that the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh are integral and inalienable parts of the country. He stated that those who have no standing on the matter should refrain from making comments on it.

The statement reflected India's long-standing position that Jammu and Kashmir is an internal issue and not a subject for international discussion. New Delhi has repeatedly maintained that no foreign country or organisation has any role in matters related to the region.

India also viewed the latest development as another attempt by Pakistan to internationalise the Jammu and Kashmir issue. Over the years, India has consistently opposed efforts by Pakistan to raise the matter at international forums.

Last week, India also rejected references to Jammu and Kashmir in a China-Pakistan joint statement issued after talks in Beijing.

New Delhi reiterated that Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh are inseparable parts of India and said no foreign country has the right to comment on the issue, urging all parties to respect India's sovereignty.

India rejects 3rd party role in boundary

NEW DELHI

India on Tuesday firmly stated that there is no role for any third party in matters related to the India-Nepal boundary and stressed that all outstanding issues should be resolved through bilateral mechanisms.

Addressing a weekly media briefing, Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal responded to recent remarks made by Nepal Prime Minister Balendra Shah regarding border issues between the two countries.

Jaiswal said India had taken note of Shah's comments and a subsequent clarification issued by Nepal's Foreign Ministry. He pointed out that nearly 98 per cent of the India-Nepal boundary has already been demarcated, with only a few segments remaining unresolved.

According to him, changes in the course of the Gandak River have created some boundary-related complications. He also noted instances of cross-border occupation and encroachment in demarcated areas, which are currently being jointly mapped by both countries.

Jaiswal said India and Nepal already have established bilateral mechanisms to address all aspects of boundary management.

He emphasized that such matters are strictly bilateral and do not require the involvement of any external party.

The statement came after Nepal Prime Minister Balendra Shah claimed that Nepal had encroached on Indian territory in some locations, while also referring to India's alleged occupation of areas claimed by Nepal. He called for both countries to jointly examine the issue.

Shah said Nepal had discussed the border issue with India, China and the UK, citing its colonial-era origins.

India reiterated that all border-related matters with Nepal must be resolved bilaterally through existing mechanisms without any third-party involvement.

His comments were criticised by opposition leaders and experts in Nepal.

Meanwhile, MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal confirmed that Rastriya Swatantra Party chief Rabi Lamichhane is in India for meetings with senior leaders.

Raut invites regretful rebels back to party

MUMBAI

Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut on Tuesday said leaders who left the party in 2022 and later regretted their decision could return to the camp led by Uddhav Thackeray.

Speaking to reporters, the Rajya Sabha member said those who feel they made a mistake by joining Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde should come back if they now realise they were misled.

However, he also clarified that not all defectors would be welcomed back into the party.

Raut's remarks came a day after former Maharashtra minister Abdul Sattar, a supporter of Eknath Shinde, expressed dissatisfaction with the BJP's treatment of the Shinde-led Shiv Sena.

Sattar alleged that while the BJP had weakened the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena, it was now damaging the Shinde faction as well, particularly in Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar district.

Questioning the purpose of the alliance, Sattar said there was little value in remaining with a partner that was gradually weakening its ally. He also indicated support for a possible reunion between the two Shiv Sena factions.

Responding to these comments, Raut rejected the claim that the BJP had ever been the "elder brother" in the original Shiv Sena-BJP alliance in Maharashtra.

He maintained that the undivided Shiv Sena had always been the senior partner and alleged that the BJP could not accept that position.

Raut further accused the BJP of engineering the split in the Shiv Sena. He also criticised the Election Commission, alleging that the Shinde-led faction emerged because of unfair decisions regarding the party's name and election symbol.

He expressed confidence that whenever the Supreme Court delivers its verdict on the legal dispute over the Shiv Sena name and symbol, the decision will favour the Uddhav Thackeray-led faction.

CBI arrests 2 key accused in LUCC scam

NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has arrested two alleged masterminds in the Uttarakhand LUCC Chit Fund scam from Mumbai, marking a major breakthrough in the ongoing probe into the multi-crore deposit fraud.

According to the CBI, the arrests were made on June 1 after extensive investigation involving analysis of financial records, bank transactions, witness statements and field inquiries conducted across several states.The case relates to alleged illegal collection of public deposits, cheating, criminal breach of trust, conspiracy and operation of unregulated deposit schemes by the Loni Urban Multi State Credit and Thrift Co-operative Society (LUCC). The agency took over the investigation of 18 FIRs registered by Uttarakhand Police following directions from the Uttarakhand High Court.

The meetings came at a time when political observers and party workers are closely watching his next move.

Annamalai meets BJP leaders amid future role speculation

NEW DELHI

Former Tamil Nadu BJP president K Annamalai met Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi on Monday, adding to ongoing speculation over his future within the party ranks.

During the visit, he also met BJP National President Nitin Nabin and senior leader BL Santosh. The meetings came at a time when political observers and party workers are closely watching his next move.

A day earlier, Annamalai responded to rumours circulating on social media about the possibility of him leaving the BJP and launching a new political party. He said, "Please wait. We will sit down and talk in two days," without offering further details.

His remarks have fuelled fresh discussion online, where supporters continue to debate his political plans. Ahead of his birthday on June 4, posters carrying messages such as "Our Leader, Come and Lead Us" have appeared across Coimbatore.

The developments come after the 2026 Tamil Nadu Assembly elections, which produced a major political change in the state. TVK won 108 seats in its first election and ended the long dominance of the DMK and AIADMK alliances.

Following the victory, TVK leader Vijay took charge as the state's Chief Minister and assumed office at the Secretariat. Governor Arlekar also administered the oath to the new Council of Ministers alongside several cabinet colleagues.

Vijay later thanked the people of Tamil Nadu for their support and confidence. He described the change in government as the beginning of a new era focused on secularism, social justice and inclusive governance.

While no official announcement has been made regarding Annamalai's future, his meetings in the national capital have attracted significant attention.

SUPPORT GROWS FOR YOGI'S COW PROTECTION REMARKS

NEW DELHI

Support poured in from religious leaders and political figures after Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath spoke about the importance of cows in Indian culture and traditions. Several leaders agreed with his views and stressed the need to protect cows and respect public sentiments connected to them.

Bihar Minister Ram Kripal Yadav said cows occupy a special place in Indian society. He noted that cows are regarded as equal to a mother and are worshipped by many people. According to him, cows provide nourishment and are also a valuable source of wealth and livestock. He said respecting and protecting cows is a fundamental duty for society.Jagadguru Paramhans Acharya also supported the Chief Minister's comments. He said people discussing the issue should first understand the principles of Sanatan Dharma before forming opinions. According to him, changing one's position depending on circumstances reflects inconsistency in understanding and thought.

Shia Markazi Chand Committee chairman Maulana Syed Abbas backed a nationwide ban on cow slaughter. He said that if cows are regarded as mothers by a large section of the country, their sentiments should be respected. Abbas stated that ignoring such feelings would be unfortunate and called for a nationwide prohibition on cow slaughter.

Mahant Sitaram Das also endorsed the Chief Minister's remarks. He said cows are traditionally regarded as the mother of the world and are deeply respected in Hindu beliefs. He added that people who lack faith and devotion towards cows may not fully understand their significance.

The reactions followed Yogi Adityanath's remarks on cow protection, their cultural significance, and his appeal to avoid actions disrespecting cows.

CBI seeks witness statements in Twisha death probe

BHOPAL

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Tuesday moved a Bhopal district court seeking permission to record statements of several important witnesses in the mysterious death case of actress Twisha Sharma.

The court also directed Bhopal Central Jail authorities to provide a safe cell for retired judge Giribala Singh after she expressed security concerns.Advocate Anurag Srivastava, representing Twisha Sharma's family, said the CBI wants to question relatives and friends of both Giribala Singh and her son, Samarth Singh. According to him, the agency aims to establish a clear sequence of events by collecting first-hand accounts from people connected to the accused.

No eligible woman excluded from 'Ladki Bahin': Fadnavis

MUMBAI

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Tuesday said no eligible beneficiary has been removed from the Mukhyamantri Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana, even as the government identified large numbers of ineligible recipients during a verification drive.

Speaking after the weekly Cabinet meeting, Fadnavis explained that the scheme was initially launched using a self-certification system so that women could apply without waiting to gather official documents. He said the government later carried out a detailed verification process by matching beneficiary data with records from various state and central databases.

According to the Chief Minister, the exercise revealed several irregularities. More than five lakh beneficiaries were found to be government employees, while nearly ten lakh women had annual incomes above the scheme's eligibility limit of Rs 2.5 lakh. Authorities also discovered that around 14,000 men had wrongly received benefits meant only for women.

Fadnavis said many beneficiaries failed to complete the mandatory e-KYC process despite repeated reminders over the past nine months. He stated that payments to ineligible beneficiaries and those who did not complete KYC verification would be stopped immediately.

However, the government has decided not to recover money already paid to women later found to be ineligible. At the same time, strict action will be taken against the men who allegedly misused the scheme. The government plans to recover the entire amount received by them.

Fadnavis said 1.70 crore eligible women completed KYC and will continue receiving benefits. He added excluded beneficiaries were either ineligible or failed e-KYC, and the verification window may reopen.

Third mountain tunnel breakthrough boosts bullet train project

AHMEDABAD

The Mumbai-Ahmedabad Bullet Train project has reached another important milestone with the breakthrough of its third mountain tunnel in Maharashtra. The achievement marks steady progress on one of the most complex parts of India's first high-speed rail corridor.

The National High Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHSRCL) announced on Tuesday that the breakthrough was completed at Ambesari village in Dahanu taluka of Palghar district. The tunnel, known as MT-07, is 417 metres long and 14.4 metres wide. It has been designed to carry both up and down tracks of the bullet train route.

According to NHSRCL, excavation work was carried out from both ends using a controlled drilling and blasting technique. To maintain safety and structural stability, engineers used advanced geotechnical instruments and real-time monitoring systems throughout the construction process.

KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Office of the Executive Engineer KNNL, Varahi Project Division Siddapura, Udupi District.576229
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್ ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ ಕನೀನಿ, ವಾರಾಹಿ ಯೋಜನಾ ವಿಭಾಗ ಸಿದ್ದಾಪುರ–576 229, ಉಡುಪಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ

ದರಪಟ್ಟಿ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ

ಉತ್ತರಕನ್ನಡ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಕುಮಟಾ ತಾಲೂಕಿನ ಕೊಳಗೇರಿ(ದಿವಳ್ಳಿ) (ಸಂತೆಗುಳಿ ಗ್ರಾಮ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್) ಬಳಿ ಅಘನಾಶಿನಿ ನದಿಗೆ ಅಡ್ಡಲಾಗಿ ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳುವ "ಬ್ರಿಡ್ಜ್ ಕಂ ಬ್ಯಾರೇಜ್. ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ಸರ್ವೆ ಕನ್ಸಲ್ಟೆನ್ಸಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯನ್ನು ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಸದರಿ ಸರ್ವೆ ಕೆಲಸದ ಅಂದಾಜು ಪಟ್ಟಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ದರವನ್ನು ಅಳವಡಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವ ಸಲುವಾಗಿ, ದರಪಟ್ಟಿಯ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕದಿಂದ 7 ದಿನಗಳೊಳಗೆ ಮುಚ್ಚಿದ ಲಕೋಟೆಯ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಗೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ತಿಳಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ ಮತ್ತು ಇದಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಪಟ್ಟ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆಯನ್ನು ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯಿಂದ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಿಸಲು ಕೋರಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಈ ಕಛೇರಿ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:08259–284240ಯನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್, ಕನೀನಿ,
ವಾರಾಹಿ ಯೋಜನಾ ವಿಭಾಗ,
ಸಿದ್ದಾಪುರ, ಉಡುಪಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ.

Karnataka Government (An Autonomous Institution)
KARWAR INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, KARWAR
No: KRIMS/e-Tender/2026-27 Date: 30.05.2026

Tender Notification (through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal)

Sl.No.1: Tender No: KRIMS/e-Tender/207/2026-27, Date: 30.05.2026, Tender Name: Tele-Reporting of CT, MRI Scans to KRIMS, Karwar. Tender Commencement Date: 02.06.2026, Last date for uploading tender forms: 18.06.2026 before 5.00 pm.

Sl.No.2: Tender No: KRIMS/e-Tender/208/2026-27, Date: 30.05.2026, Tender Name: Supply of Stationary Items to KRIMS, Karwar. Tender Commencement Date: 02.06.2026, Last date for uploading tender forms: 18.06.2026 before 5.00 pm.

Sl.No.3: Tender No: KRIMS/e-Tender/189/2025-26/Call-4, Date: 30.05.2026, Tender Name: Call-4 tender is invited to run a Canteen on Rental Basis at KRIMS, Karwar. Tender Commencement Date: 02.06.2026, Last date for uploading tender forms: 18.06.2026 before 5.00 pm

Sl.No.4: Tender No: KRIMS/e-Tender/197/2025-26/Call-2, Date: 30.05.2026, Tender Name: Call-2 tender for Supply of Diet prepared food to In-patients of KRIMS Hospital for 1 year. Tender Commencement Date: 03.06.2026, Last date for uploading tender forms: 20.06.2026 before 5.00 pm

Sl.No.5: Tender No: KRIMS/e-Tender/209/2026-27, Date: 30.05.2026, Tender Name: Supply of TAB and Various Instruments to Paramedical Students under SCP/TSP Scheme to KRIMS, Karwar. Tender Commencement Date: 03.06.2026, Last date for uploading tender forms: 20.06.2026 before 5.00 pm.

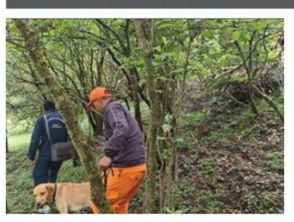
Sl.No.6: Tender No: KRIMS/e-Tender/210/2026-27, Date: 30.05.2026, Tender Name: Supply of Paramedical Courses Books under SCP/TSP Scheme to KRIMS, Karwar. Tender Commencement Date: 03.06.2026, Last date for uploading tender forms: 20.06.2026 before 5.00 pm.

The details of above e-tender can be obtained from website http://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in.

Sd/- Director
KARWAR INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, KARWAR

DIPR/KWR/KSMCA/170/26-27 dt. 01.06.2026

QUICK READ



Search intensified for missing woman trekker

Uttarkashi
Search efforts for a woman trekker missing on the Dayara Bugyal route in Uttarakhand have been intensified, with the Army and Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) joining the operation. Officials said multiple agencies are conducting round-the-clock searches in the difficult mountain terrain. District Magistrate Prashant Arya reviewed the rescue operation from the Disaster Smart Control Room and directed officials to use all available resources. Rescue teams have been deployed across challenging stretches, with authorities closely monitoring progress and terrain-related difficulties.

Srinagar airport to close for maintenance

Srinagar
Srinagar International Airport will remain closed for flight operations from October 1 to October 15 due to major runway maintenance and repair work, officials said on Tuesday. A phased schedule will begin in July, with the airport shutting every Monday and Tuesday. Authorities said the repairs are necessary for operational safety. The closure during the Durga Puja holidays may affect tourism, as many visitors from West Bengal travel to Kashmir during this period. Travel operators fear cancellations and financial losses.

Ahmedabad cops seize drugs worth Rs 14 cr

Ahmedabad
Ahmedabad Police foiled a drug trafficking attempt and seized 7.084 kg of methamphetamine worth over Rs 14.16 crore during a targeted operation in the Naroda area on Tuesday. A 48-year-old man was arrested based on specific intelligence inputs. Officials said senior officers had instructed all units to strengthen action against narcotics networks. Acting on a tip-off, police tracked a suspect matching a detailed description and intercepted him while he was carrying a blue bag containing the banned substance.

Jairam alleges RSS influence through state task forces

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh accused BJP-ruled states of weakening tribal rights laws through new Task Forces

NEW DELHI

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh on Tuesday strongly criticised the governments of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, alleging that they have created special Task Forces to institutionalise the role of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) in implementing key tribal welfare and forest rights laws.

In a post on X, Ramesh claimed that Odisha is likely to become the third state to adopt a similar system. According to him, these Task Forces are being set up to oversee the implementation of the Panchayat (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 (PESA) and the Forest Rights Act, 2006 (FRA).

Ramesh alleged that the move weakens the democratic framework established under these laws. He said the Akhil Bharatiya Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram, which is affiliated with the RSS, is playing a major role in shaping the initiative. He claimed that the organisation is attempting to reduce the powers of Gram Sabhas, which are village councils given significant authority under both laws.

The Congress leader argued that PESA and FRA were the result of long-standing people's movements aimed at protecting tribal rights and ensuring local control over land and natural resources. He alleged that the creation of Task Forces with executive powers goes against the spirit and intent of these laws.

Ramesh also linked the move to economic interests, alleging it could help mining companies access forest resources with limited environmental safeguards. Referring to the "Modani empire," he claimed large corporate groups may benefit. The allegations have sparked debate over tribal governance and forest rights. PESA and the Forest Rights Act empower Gram Sabhas in decisions related to land, forests and local resources. No official response was issued by the state governments.

Jaishankar discusses trade, tech with global partners

He held key meetings with leaders from Germany and South Africa while highlighting India's support for Africa and strengthening ties with Italy.

NEW DELHI

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Tuesday held a series of diplomatic engagements focused on strengthening India's international partnerships in trade, technology, healthcare and global cooperation.

Jaishankar met Mario Voigt and his delegation from Thuringia, discussing ways to expand economic and technological cooperation. Sharing details of the meeting, Jaishankar said he welcomed Voigt's strong support for deeper ties between India and Germany, as well as between India and the European Union. The discussions mainly focused on business opportunities and technology partnerships that could benefit both sides.

Later in the day, Jaishankar met Shipokosa Paulus Mashatile in New Delhi. The two leaders reviewed opportunities to deepen cooperation across several sectors. According to Jaishankar, the discussions covered trade, investment, micro, small and medium enterprises, digital development and infrastructure projects. Both sides also agreed on the importance of close coordination in international forums.

In another significant development, Jaishankar announced that India had dispatched the second tranche of medical assistance to the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention. The shipment, weighing 43 tonnes, includes protective equipment, diagnostic tools, monitoring devices, medicines and nutritional supplements. The assistance is intended to strengthen public health preparedness and improve response capabilities in African countries dealing with the Ebola outbreak.

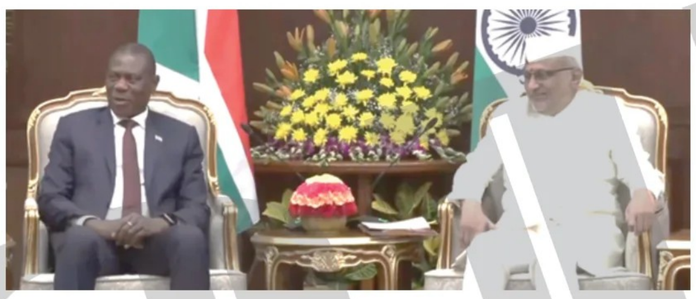
Jaishankar also extended greetings to Italy on its National Day. In his message to Antonio Tajani, the Italian government and people, he expressed confidence that the special strategic partnership between India and Italy would continue to grow stronger in the years ahead.

Visit focuses on expanding cooperation in trade, investment, culture, technology and international engagement

S. African DyPrez holds high-level India meetings

NEW DELHI

South African Deputy President Shipokosa Paulus Mashatile met Vice President C. P. Radhakrishnan on Tuesday as part of his six-day visit to India aimed at strengthening bilateral relations between the two countries.



Earlier in the day, Mashatile held talks with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar. The leaders discussed ways to deepen cooperation in several sectors and agreed to work closely in international forums.

Jaishankar said the discussions focused on trade, investments, micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), digital technology and infrastructure development. He also appreciated Mashatile's commitment to strengthening the long-standing partnership between India and South Africa.

Mashatile arrived in India on May 29 for a working visit that will continue until June 3. The visit is intended to provide fresh momentum to bilateral ties and explore new areas of cooperation. During his stay, he is also scheduled to call on President Droupadi Murmu.

On Sunday, Mashatile, accompanied by South Africa's Minister of Small Business Development, Stella Tembisa Ndabeni-Abrahams, visited Dilli Haat in the national capital. The visit was aimed at understanding India's cultural heritage and entrepreneurial ecosystem.Sharing details of the visit, Mashatile said Dilli Haat showcases India's diverse traditions through music, dance and art from different states. He added that the delegation was keen to learn how India supports small and medium enterprises, promotes innovation in the digital economy and manages infrastructure development.

The South African delegation is also scheduled to visit Hyderabad before departing on June 3. Officials believe the visit will help strengthen economic, cultural and diplomatic cooperation between the two nations while opening new opportunities for collaboration in key sectors of mutual interest.

Cong backs Mamata's stir, BJP blasts move

NEW DELHI

The Congress on Tuesday supported TMC chief Mamata Banerjee over her sit-in protest against alleged attacks on party leaders and workers, calling it a constitutional right. The BJP, however, dismissed the move, saying it reflected growing public dissatisfaction with the Trinamool Congress.

Congress MP Pramod Tiwari said the Constitution allows peaceful protests against injustice and defended Banerjee's decision to demonstrate. He alleged that TMC leaders, including Abhishek Banerjee and Kalyan Banerjee, had faced attacks and claimed several party offices were vandalised. Tiwari accused the BJP of targeting opposition leaders and urged opposition parties to unite against what he described as political intimidation.Responding to the allegations, BJP MP Praveen Khandelwal said Mamata Banerjee was disappointed after the Trinamool Congress lost the West Bengal Assembly elections.

Cong seeks TVK backing for RS bypoll

CHENNAI

Senior Congress leader and former Union Finance Minister P. Chidambaram met Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and TVK President C. Joseph Vijay at the State Secretariat on Tuesday, fuelling political speculation ahead of the upcoming Rajya Sabha bye-election in the state.

The meeting comes as political parties begin consultations following the Election Commission's announcement of a bye-election to fill a vacant Rajya Sabha seat. The vacancy was created after former AIADMK member C. Ve. Shanmugam resigned from the Upper House after being elected to the Tamil Nadu Assembly from the Mailam constituency.

According to political sources, the Congress is interested in securing the vacant seat and is seeking support from the ruling TVK-led alliance. The Congress, which has five MLAs in the Assembly, supported the TVK government after the Assembly elections and continues to be an important ally of the ruling coalition.

Sources said Chidambaram conveyed the views of the Congress leadership during his meeting with Chief Minister Vijay. Although no official details of the discussion were released, the Rajya Sabha bye-election is believed to have been a key topic.

The ruling TVK holds a strong numerical advantage in the Assembly with 107 MLAs and support from its alliance partners. This places the party in a decisive position to influence the outcome of the election.

Political observers believe Congress sees the vacancy as an opportunity to strengthen its presence in Parliament. However, the party has not yet announced its candidate. Sources indicated that Vijay will consult senior TVK leaders and alliance partners before taking a final decision. The bypoll has generated considerable interest, with discussions continuing over whether TVK will field its own candidate or support an ally, including Congress.

SOMAIYA DEMANDS ROAD PRAYER CURBS, CONG SEEKS EQUALITY

MUMBAI

BJP leader Kirit Somaiya on Tuesday urged Mumbai's civic and police authorities to stop religious activities, including Namaz, from being conducted on public roads. In a letter sent to the Municipal Commissioner, Police Commissioner, traffic authorities and district collectors, Somaiya said such gatherings disrupt traffic and inconvenience commuters and local residents.

He referred to instances where prayers are allegedly offered outside railway stations and on busy roads in some parts of Mumbai. According to him, large gatherings, especially during Friday prayers, can affect traffic movement and create difficulties for people using public infrastructure.

Somaiya said roads, major intersections and other high-traffic areas should not be used for religious gatherings. He also cited court observations and guidelines on the use of public spaces, parks and open grounds, arguing that these principles should be followed to maintain public order and ensure smooth civic functioning.

The BJP leader called for clear guidelines and immediate action by the administration.

Cong backs Mamata's stir, BJP blasts move

NEW DELHI

The Congress on Tuesday supported TMC chief Mamata Banerjee over her sit-in protest against alleged attacks on party leaders and workers, calling it a constitutional right. The BJP, however, dismissed the move, saying it reflected growing public dissatisfaction with the Trinamool Congress.Congress MP Pramod Tiwari said the Constitution allows peaceful protests against injustice and defended Banerjee's decision to demonstrate. He alleged that TMC leaders, including Abhishek Banerjee and Kalyan Banerjee, had faced attacks and claimed several party offices were vandalised. Tiwari accused the BJP of targeting opposition leaders and urged opposition parties to unite against what he described as political intimidation.

TUMAKURU CITY CORPORATION TUMAKURU
Phone : 0816-2272200, Helpline : 94498 72599,
E-mail : ka.tumakurucity.mrc.gov.in
Website : www.tumakurucity.mrc.gov.in

No.: T.C.C./Engineer Section/Civil/CR/04/26-27 Date: 01-06-2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(E-Procurement Portal through only)

The Executive Engineer, Tumakuru City Corporation, Tumakuru invites tenders as per the KTPP act 1999 - 2000 through KPPP Portal for **Amrut - 2.0 Grant and Corporation Grant** Tenders Eligible Contractors with PWD License Certificate can Participate in the Tender. Contractors can Download and Submit the Tenders through KPPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) and Tender Processing Fee shall also be Paid Electronically. Calendar of Events and other information are as follows:

Work Name : 1) Development and Rejuvenation of Honnenahalli Lake, Tumakuru Under AMRUT 2.0 (DMA/2026-27/OW/WORK_INDENT58265), Estimate Cost (In Lakhs) : 767.00, 2) Development and Rejuvenation of Baddihalli Lake, Tumakuru Under AMRUT 2.0 (DMA/2026-27/OW/WORK_INDENT 58263), Estimate Cost (In Lakhs) : 1068.00, 3) ತುಮಕೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬೀದಿ ನಾಯಿಗಳ ಆಶ್ರಯ ತಾಣ ಹಾಗೂ ಎಬಿಸಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ. **Estimate Cost (In Lakhs) : 290.00.**

1) Date of Receipt of Tenders : 01-06-2026, 2) Last Date for Submission of Tenders : 01-07-2026 at 4.30 p.m., 3) Pre-Bid Meeting : 08-06-2026 at 11.30 a.m., 4) Date of Opening of Tenders (Technical Bids) : 02-07-2026 at 4.35 p.m., 5) Date of Opening of Tenders (Financial Bids) : 04-07-2026 at 4.45 p.m.

Postponement of Calendar of events (if any) is only Through KPPP Portal and will not be published in newspapers.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Tumakuru City Corporation Tumakuru.

DIPR/Tumkur/23/Manipal/2026-27

ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ,
ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ,
ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಕೆ.ಆರ್.ವೃತ್ತ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು.
ಸಂ:ಕಾ.ಅ.(ವಿ)/ಲೋ.ಇ./ವಿದ್ಯುತ್/2026–27/305 ದಿನಾಂಕ:02.06.2026

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ವಿದ್ಯುತ್), ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಇವರ ವತಿಯಿಂದ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ KW-1 STD ಷರತ್ತಿಗೊಳಪಟ್ಟಂತೆ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ. ಮೂಲಕ ಎರಡನೇ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆಯನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ವಿವರ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತಿವೆ.

ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ.	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಹೆಸರು	ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)
1	Providing Diesel Generator Set to District Prison, Mangalore, D.K. District. PWD/2026-27/EL/WORK_ INDENT 35406/Call-2	ರೂ.11.88

ಮೇಲಿನ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಲು ಇಚ್ಛಿಸುವವರು ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/portal-home** ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯೂಮೆಂಟ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು **ದಿನಾಂಕ:01.06.2026** ರಿಂದ **15.06.2026, 16.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ** ಹಾಗೂ ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 15.06.2026 ರಂದೆ 16.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ** ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಛೇರಿಯನ್ನು ಕೆಲಸದ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದು.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು(ವಿ)
ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು.
ವಾಸಾಸಂ೦ಇ/ಉನಿ–ಸಿ.ಪಿ/928/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/2026–27

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FCI denies bias in awarding Silo contracts

NEW DELHI

The Food Corporation of India (FCI) has rejected allegations of favouritism and monopoly in the awarding of grain silo projects, stating that the tendering process was open, transparent and competitive. The clarification came in response to a report that alleged changes in tender conditions benefited certain companies under the "Hub and Spoke" silo modernisation programme.

FCI said the bidding process was conducted according to established procurement norms and aimed at encouraging wider participation from eligible companies. It pointed out that while one company secured projects in the first phase, it did not win any contracts in the second phase, showing that there was no preferential treatment or bias.

The corporation stated that the decision not to impose restrictions on bidder participation was taken collectively, considering the growth potential of the sector. According to FCI, allowing more companies to compete helped increase competition and investment opportunities.

Rejecting claims that the process was designed to favour any particular bidder, FCI said all eligible participants were given equal opportunities and that tender conditions were applied uniformly. It added that no special concessions or relaxations were granted to any company.

FCI explained that its silo development programme aims to modernise grain storage infrastructure through scientific warehousing under the public-private partnership model. The initiative is intended to improve storage efficiency and strengthen India's foodgrain supply chain.FCI said the silo sector has strong growth potential and that restricting bidders could weaken competition and investment. It stated that tenders were widely advertised and contracts were awarded solely through competitive bidding, ensuring transparency.

QUICK READ

Frederiksen wins third term as PM Denmark

Copenhagen

Mette Frederiksen has secured a third term as Denmark's Prime Minister after a coalition agreement was reached nearly 10 weeks after parliamentary elections. She will lead a new centre-left government formed by four parties. Frederiksen informed King Frederik X about plans to create a coalition including her Social Democrats, the Socialist People's Party, the right-wing liberal Venstre party, and the centrist Moderates. The King invited her to form the government. She will present priorities on Tuesday, and ministers will be announced on Wednesday.

6.1 magnitude quake strikes off Southern Italy

Rome

A 6.1-magnitude earthquake struck off the coast of Italy's Calabria region early Tuesday and was felt as far as Naples. The epicentre was in the Tyrrhenian Sea near Cosenza, around 240 km southeast of Naples. The National Institute of Geophysics and Volcanology said the quake occurred at a depth of 250 km. Tremors were felt across Calabria and reached Basilicata and areas near Mount Vesuvius. No immediate reports of casualties or damage have been confirmed, while assessment work continues.

Trump terms Iran negotiations boring amid ongoing tensions

Trump says even Iran's surrender would be portrayed by Democrats and media as US defeat.

WASHINGTON DC

For three months, President Donald Trump has been deeply involved in discussions around the Iran conflict, including planning military actions, tensions around the Strait of Hormuz, and shifting statements on ceasefire and naval moves.

But on Monday, after several days of negotiations with Iranian officials through intermediaries on a preliminary agreement, Trump said the situation was starting to get very boring.

He said he does not care if talks end, adding he could not care less if negotiations collapse between the two sides.

His comments come even as gasoline prices have risen since the conflict began, raising concerns among businesses and policymakers in the United States. Reports also suggest Republican leaders are watching the war's unpopularity among voters ahead of upcoming elections.

In recent weeks, Trump has also shown indifference toward several political issues with long-term consequences, including elections and economic pressures facing Americans. Despite this, he continues to shift between threats, claims of progress, and criticism of Iran's actions in public statements. Just hours before his remark, he had posted that negotiations were continuing at a rapid pace with Iran's government.

He earlier predicted a quick end to the conflict, but shifting statements have raised doubts about US policy consistency toward Iran. Analysts say the conflict has impacted global energy markets, raising oil prices and fueling debate in the US.

Trump on Monday said that even in a scenario where Iran fully surrenders militarily, political opponents and the media would still misrepresent the outcome. He described a hypothetical situation in which Iran's navy and air force are destroyed, its military leaves Tehran, and its leadership signs formal surrender documents acknowledging defeat to the United States. Trump claimed that even under such conditions, critics would portray Iran as having won a "brilliant victory" over America.

He also attacked Democrats and several media organisations, accusing them of distorting facts and losing credibility. At the same time, Trump expressed optimism about ongoing negotiations with Tehran, saying discussions to extend the truce and restore key maritime routes could lead to progress within a week.

He noted that final approval of an agreement is still pending as some issues remain unresolved. Earlier, he had said talks were moving at a rapid pace, despite recent exchanges of fire that have strained the fragile ceasefire between the two sides. These renewed clashes have raised concerns that the truce could collapse, even as diplomatic efforts continue through intermediaries.

Japan faces deepening population decline

TOKYO

Japan's population has fallen by more than three million in the past five years, highlighting a worsening demographic crisis, according to official census data. The population dropped from 126.1 million in 2020 to about 123 million last year, marking the sharpest decline since records began in 1920.

Japan's population peaked at 128 million in 2008 and is projected to fall further to around 87 million by 2070. The country now resembles its population size from the late 1980s, showing a long-term downward trend driven by low birth rates and rising deaths.

Authorities have tried for years to encourage higher birth rates, but the efforts have had limited impact.

Lula launches Brazil public streaming platform

SAO PAULO

Brazil launches Tela Brasil, a public streaming platform promoting national films and culture.

Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva has launched Tela Brasil, the country's first federal public streaming platform dedicated to Brazilian audiovisual content.

Speaking at the launch event in Rio de Janeiro on Saturday, Lula stressed that culture plays a major role in creating jobs, supporting economic growth, and strengthening national identity.

He said cultural activities involve many professionals and generate wide economic benefits. Lula noted that the cultural sector's contribution is often undervalued despite its strong impact on employment and development.

He explained that every film or television production creates work for hundreds of people, from artists to technical staff. According to him, culture also helps citizens feel more connected to their country and builds national pride.

The platform has been developed by the Ministry of Culture in partnership with the Federal University of Alagoas and runs on Brazilian technology. It aims to improve public access to domestic films, documentaries, and television content through a single digital service. Officials have described Tela Brasil as a "Brazilian Netflix," designed to promote independent productions that often succeed at festivals but struggle to reach mass audiences.

Authorities believe the platform will strengthen the country's film and television industry, increase visibility for local creators, and open new opportunities for independent filmmakers.

The catalogue includes 19 films submitted by Brazil for the Academy Awards, along with children's content, musicals, historical documentaries, and award-winning titles. It also highlights diversity through Black and Indigenous cinema, women-led projects, and stories focused on sustainability, climate justice, memory, and Brazilian cultural identity.

Deadly Russian strikes hit Kyiv in overnight attack

KYIV

Russian forces launched a large-scale overnight assault on Ukraine's capital early Tuesday, killing at least nine people and injuring nearly 100 others across multiple cities, according to Ukrainian officials cited by CNN.

The strikes came amid warnings from President Volodymyr Zelenskyy about possible intensified Russian attacks, as Moscow had earlier threatened "consistent and systematic strikes" on Ukraine's defence infrastructure.

The attack involved missiles and drones targeting Kyiv and surrounding regions, damaging residential and commercial buildings, causing fires and widespread destruction. Kyiv Mayor Vitali Klitschko described it as a "massive enemy attack" affecting several districts across the capital.

Officials said there are fears that people may still be trapped under rubble after a partially collapsed multi-storey apartment building in Kyiv's Podilsky district was hit in a "double tap" strike. Emergency services were deployed throughout the city as fires continued to burn in damaged structures.

Authorities reported at least 58 injured in Kyiv alone, including children, while power outages affected several areas and emergency shelters were opened for displaced residents. A suspected missile strike also hit a 24-storey residential building in Shevchenkivskyi district, triggering a major fire. Another blaze broke out in a nine-storey building in Podil after debris struck its roof.

Elsewhere, damage was reported at a clinic, a kindergarten complex, and nearby towns including Bucha, where homes and infrastructure were destroyed. Regional officials said drones, cruise missiles and ballistic missiles were used in the coordinated assault across Ukraine's peaceful towns and villages.

Earlier, Zelenskyy had warned of increased Russian attacks, saying intelligence indicated a large strike was being prepared. Russia, meanwhile, claimed it was targeting Ukraine's defence industry facilities and warned foreign citizens to leave Kyiv. Both sides have continued long-range strikes, escalating the ongoing conflict further.

POWER CUTS WORSEN KARACHI WATER CRISIS

KARACHI

Karachi's water supply crisis worsened on Monday as power outages disrupted operations for the third consecutive day, leaving residents struggling in extreme heat, according to Dawn.

The disruption was triggered after supply from the Hub Pumping Station was suspended due to a fault in K-Electric's main cable. The Karachi Water and Sewerage Corporation (KWSC) said the outage has created a daily water shortfall of around 85 million gallons. However, K-Electric claimed that power was restored through alternative arrangements.

The city has been facing a severe water shortage for nearly two months, including during Eid al-Adha. Earlier, supply was also affected on May 30 when a forced shutdown at Dhabeji Grid was carried out to repair a technical fault in a power transformer. This led to the shutdown of 10 of 21 pumping units, stopping water flow to several areas.

The crisis worsened further when the K-II Pumping Station also stopped working, creating an additional shortfall of 54 million gallons per day. Even after partial restoration of power, the city had already faced a total shortage of 122 million gallons.

On Monday, the new cable fault again cut power to the Hub Pumping Station, deepening the crisis. Residents across Karachi are now depending on expensive water tankers and private suppliers as regular supply has become unreliable. Long queues, dry taps, and rising costs have added to public hardship amid inflation and economic stress.

Reports say the crisis began in late March and continues due to pipeline leaks, aging infrastructure, repeated breakdowns, and frequent power failures at pumping stations. Authorities have struggled to restore stable supply, leaving many areas without consistent access to clean water for weeks. The situation has severely affected daily life across the city.

2 pilots die in Taiwan crash

TAIPEI

Two Taiwan Air Force pilots were killed after a T-34 trainer aircraft crashed in southern Taiwan during a training mission. The accident took place on Tuesday morning at Gangshan Air Base in Kaohsiung.

The aircraft was being flown by Lieutenant Colonel Lu Chi-yu and Lieutenant Colonel Kuo Chun-nan during a simulated engine-failure exercise when it went down. Both pilots died in the crash.

BYC pays tribute to Saba Dashtiyari

QUETTA

The Baloch Yakjehti Committee (BYC) has paid tribute to academic and intellectual Professor Saba Dashtiyari on his death anniversary, describing him as a symbol of resistance, awareness, and national identity in Balochistan.

In a statement shared on social media platform X, BYC said Professor Dashtiyari was an important intellectual voice who consistently spoke for the rights of the Baloch people and the protection of their cultural identity. The group said he represented not just a person but also an idea focused on education, awareness, and social change.

According to BYC, Dashtiyari dedicated his life to spreading knowledge and encouraging political and educational awareness among students and youth. His lectures, writings, and discussions were seen as important in developing critical thinking within the community.

China suppresses Tiananmen memory, accuses HRW

NEW YORK

Human Rights Watch (HRW) has accused the Chinese government of increasing efforts to suppress public memory of the 1989 Tiananmen Square crackdown as the 37th anniversary approaches. The rights group said authorities are tightening control over freedom of expression and assembly while limiting any public discussion of the events.

According to HRW, the Tiananmen protests in 1989 began as peaceful demonstrations in Beijing and other cities, where students, workers, and citizens demanded democratic reforms, greater freedom, and action against corruption. The situation escalated on June 3–4, when Chinese troops opened fire on protesters and civilians, causing a large number of deaths. However, authorities have never released full details of those killed, injured, detained, or missing, nor have they held officials accountable.

HRW quoted its China researcher Yalkun Uluyol, who said that by hiding the past, the government is also undermining respect for basic human rights in the future. He called for an end to censorship, permission for public commemorations, compensation for victims' families, and the release of people jailed for seeking justice.

Authorities disrupted a Tiananmen Mothers New Year gathering in Beijing in December 2025, the first such incident since 2009, according to HRW. In May 2026, 107 members issued a statement seeking accountability for the 1989 crackdown. HRW said Tiananmen references, including "Tank Man," remain heavily censored in mainland China. Hong Kong vigils have faced growing restrictions since 2020, while diaspora groups continue global commemorations demanding justice.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are informed that my Client Sri. Basavaraj K., S/o. Sri. Kabbalaiah, R/at : Kolalagondi Tattekere, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara District – 562 112, hereby informs that the Original Regd., Sale Deed dated : 24.06.2006, Regd., as Doc. No. 10058/2006-07, Book-I and Stored in C.D.No. ANKD 134, before the office of the Sub-Reg Anekal which has been Lost/Misplaced, at Xerox Shop near Anekal Sub-Reg. office, Bangalore. My Client has also lodged a Police Complaint No. 2230840/2026. On 01.06.2026 before Crime Branch Bangalore City Police. Any Person/s in possession of the aforesaid Document may return the same to me or anyone having any sort of claim over the said Property may lodge their objections in writing within 15 days from this day to the undersigned.

SCHEDULE 'A' PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of property measuring 47 acres 30 guntas in Survey No. 35/1, Situated in Kallabalu Village, and are fully seized and possessed of lands bearing Survey No. 35/1, 35/2, 41/2, 42, 43/1, 43/2, 44/1, 44/2, 45/1, 45/2, 46/2A, 46/B, 47, 48, 60, 61/2, 62/1, 62/2, 63/1, 65/1, of Kallabalu Village and 2 acres 25 guntas in Survey No. 11/1 of J Bingipura Village totally measuring 47 acres 30 guntas, Situated in J Bingipura Village totally measuring 47 acres 30 guntas, Situated in Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, duly converted for non-agricultural residential purpose vide orders bearing Nos. ALN/SR(AG)102/96-97, ALNSR(AG)171/1996-97, ALNSR(AG) 231/1997-98, ALNSR(AG)34/1998-99, ALNSR(AG)01/1998-99, ALNSR(AG) 172/1997-98, ALNSR(AG)173/1997-98 dated 21.03.1998, issued by the Deputy Commissioner and Assessment Commissioner, Bangalore, Sub-Division, Bangalore. and bounded on the:

East by: Private Property in Kallabalu Village,
West by: Private Property in Kallabalu Village,
North by: Road and
South by: Private Property in J Bingipura Village.

SCHEDULE 'B' PROPERTY

All that residential property bearing Site No. 266, 'E' Khatha Property ID No. 150200100400201731, Property No. 266/266, formed in Schedule A Property and bearing Khatha No. 266, Situated in Kallabalu Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk and Measuring East to West: 40 Feet, and North to South: 30 Feet, totally measuring 1200 Sq Feet, is bounded on the:

East by: Road in Vasavi Shelters,
West by: Site No. 283 in Vasavi Shelters,
North by: Site No. 265 in Vasavi Shelters and
South by: Site No. 267 in Vasavi Shelters.

Sd/-
KANCHANA U
Advocate & Legal Consultant
No. 06, Ground Floor, 7th Cross, Cubbonpet Road, BANGALORE 560 002.
June 02nd, 2026.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Khaleel Ahmed Abdul Razack S/o Abdul Razack R/o No. 30 North Road ST Thomas Town, Bengaluru-560084, Karnataka India, I have changed the name of my minor Son Mohammed Ahyaan to Ahyaan Muhammad Raees aged 8 years

THE COURT OF THE 2nd ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE & J.M.F.C AT DODDABALLAPUR
CRL.MISC.NO;252 /2026

Petitioners; 1. Sri,Lokesh N S/o Narasimaiah Aged about 43 years, **2.Sri,Thammaiah @ Thammaiahappa** S/o Late Venkatappa Aged about 76 years, **3.Smt, Padma** W/o Thammaiah @ Thammaiahappa, Aged about 66years, **4. Smt, Manjula T** D/o Thammaiah @ Thammaiahappa, Aged about 43 years, **5. Smt, Geetha** W/o Late T Gopi, Aged about 36 years, **6. Smt, Rukmini T** D/o Thammaiah @ Thammaiahappa, Aged about 41 years, R/at # 1869. 12th Ward, Devarajanagara, Doddaballapur Town, V/s
Respondent; The Commissioner Doddaballapura Taluk Doddaballapur

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereea the Petitioner has filed the above petition under section 13. (3) and 14 of Registration of Birth and Deaths Act 1969 for seeking the death certificate of his brother in law of petitioner No 01 and son of petitioner no 2 & 3 and brother of petitioner no 4 & 6 and husband of petitioner No 5 by name SRI, T GOPI S/O THAMMAIAH @ THAMMAIAHAPPA who died 22-09-2020 at #1869 Devarajanagara,, 12th Ward, Doddaballapur Town.

In this regard it is hereby noticed thet whoever has interested in this said matter may Apper in person or through advocate duly authorized before court to 10.07.2026 at 11 AM in default this will be heard and disposed off Ex-parte order.

Given under my hand seal the court on the 02 day of June 2026

By order of the court
Chief Ministeral Officer, Prl Civil Judge & JMFC Doddaballapur

Advocate: **Nagaraju C.,** Doddaballapur -561203
Dated; 26-02-2026

IN THE COURT OF THE ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE AT DODDABALLAPUR
C.MIS.No.161/2026

BETWEEN: 1. SRI. GANGARAJU.V S/o Late Venkataraju Aged about 38 Years R/at. Channadevi Agrahara, Madhure Hobli, Doddaballapur Taluk **2. SMT. SUDHA** W/o Shanker. V D/o Late Venkatarju Aged about 44 Years R/at. Chamanahalli village, Chamanahalli Post Madduru Taluk Mandya District
PETITIONERS

AND REGISTRAR OF BIRTH AND DEATHS REPRESENTED BY TAHSILDHAR DODDABALLAPUR
RESPONDENT

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas, the petitioner filed a petition under section 13(3) of the Registration of Birth and Death act-1969, for obtaining death certificate the Father of the petitioners namely Late. Venkatarju S/o Late Gangaiah, was died on 12/12/2024 at Channadevipura Agrahara, Madhure Hobli, Doddaballapur Taluk, and Bangalore rural district

Hearing date of the above case is on 03.07.2026 if any person having any claim or objections with this regard, they may appear before this Hon'ble court in person/by pleader on the date mentioned above at about 11-00 AM, failing which the petition will be disposed of ex-parte.

Even my hand and seal of this Hon'ble court on this date 01.06.2026

By the order of the court
Chief ministerial officer, Addl. Civil Judge and JMFC Doddaballapur

Advocate for petitioner: **MANJUNATHA.R** ADVOCATE Doddaballapur

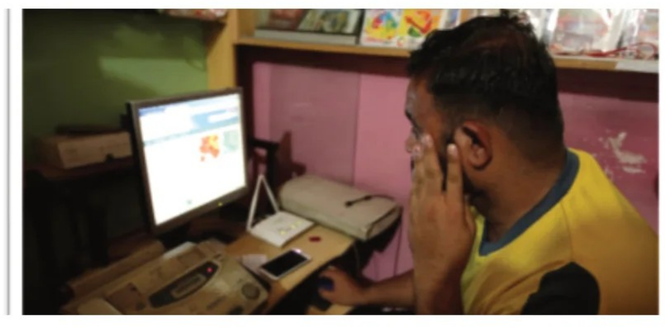
INTERNET CRISIS PAKISTAN

Senate flags telecom internet degradation crisis

ISLAMABAD

A Senate sub-committee in Pakistan has raised serious concern over widespread internet degradation and rising fuel theft at telecom sites, according to Dawn.

The committee was informed that around 16 per cent of the country's cellular infrastructure has been affected due to more than 9,200 incidents of theft and vandalism recorded in the past 11 months. Officials said the repeated attacks have badly disrupted service quality across



multiple regions.

Sindh reported the highest number of cases with 3,938 fuel theft incidents across 31 districts. Punjab followed with 2,827 cases in 38 districts. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa recorded 1,668 incidents across 25 districts, while Balochistan reported 716 cases across 26 districts. Officials of the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority told the committee that frequent power outages have also worsened the situation. Loadshedding has drained backup batteries and overworked local generators, leading to further network instability and poor service continuity.

To address the issue, PTA has engaged with the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority and the power division to secure dedicated electricity feeders for telecom sites. Authorities are also working on deploying smart transformers at key network points to improve reliability.

The Senate sub-committee directed concerned departments to identify high-risk theft areas and take strict legal action against those involved. It also instructed provincial and district administrations to ensure swift response to complaints.

The committee said internet must be treated as an essential service and directed telecom firms to improve security against fuel theft. Pakistan has often faced outages due to disasters, power shortages, and unrest, with rights groups urging against shutdowns.

Canada, Switzerland headline competitive Group B squads for WC 2026

Hosts Canada join Switzerland, Qatar and Bosnia in tough group.

TORONTO

Group B of the 2026 FIFA World Cup promises a fascinating battle for qualification to the knockout stage, with co-hosts Canada set to face strong challenges from Switzerland, Qatar and Bosnia and Herzegovina in one of the tournament's most evenly matched groups.

Playing on home soil, Canada national football team will look to capitalise on local support and the momentum generated by a talented squad featuring a blend of established stars and emerging prospects. The Canadians are boosted by the inclusion of captain Alphonso Davies despite concerns over a hamstring injury, while prolific striker Jonathan David is expected to spearhead the attack. Canada's squad also features experienced names such as Stephen Eustáquio, Tajon Buchanan, Cyle Larin and Richie Laryea, providing balance across all areas of the pitch. Among the favourites to progress from the group is Switzerland national football team, which arrives with a squad packed with players competing in Europe's top leagues. Led by midfielder Granit Xhaka and defender Manuel Akanji, the Swiss combine experience with quality and will be aiming to extend their consistent record of reaching the latter stages of major tournaments.

Switzerland's squad also includes goalkeeper Gregor Kobel, striker Breel Embolo, winger Dan Ndoye and midfielder Denis Zakaria, giving them strength throughout the team. Asian champions Qatar national football team enter the tournament hoping to build on recent international success. Their hopes will largely rest on attacking stars Akram Afif and Almoez Ali, who have been central figures in Qatar's rise over the past decade.

Meanwhile, Bosnia and Herzegovina national football team will rely on a blend of youth and experience as they seek to make a strong impression. Veteran striker Edin Džeko remains a key figure, supported by talents such as Ermedin Demirović, Amar Dedić and Sead Kolašinac.

With four nations possessing genuine ambitions of reaching the knockout rounds, Group B is widely expected to produce some of the most competitive and closely contested matches of the World Cup's group stage.

Milner retires after 24 Premier League seasons

LONDON

oFormer England midfielder James Milner has announced his retirement from professional football at the age of 40, bringing the curtain down on one of the longest and most distinguished careers in Premier League history.

Former England midfielder ends remarkable career with record 658 appearances.

Milner confirmed his decision through a social media post, ending a remarkable 24-season journey in England's top flight. The veteran midfielder leaves the game as the Premier League's all-time appearance leader, having played 658 matches and surpassing the previous record held by Gareth Barry earlier this year.

The Brighton midfielder began his professional career with boyhood club Leeds United, making his debut at just 16 years of age. In 2002, he became the youngest goalscorer in Premier League history at 16 years and 356 days, a record that was later surpassed by other players.

Reflecting on his career, Milner said he could never have imagined the journey that followed after breaking into the Leeds first team as a teenager. His longevity, consistency and professionalism earned widespread admiration across English football.

Following his spell at Leeds, Milner played for Newcastle United and Aston Villa before joining Manchester City in 2010. During his time at City, he won two Premier League titles and established himself as one of the league's most dependable midfielders. In 2015, he moved to Liverpool FC, where he enjoyed some of the most successful years of his career. Milner helped Liverpool win the Premier League title in 2020 and was a key member of the side that lifted the UEFA Champions League trophy under manager Jürgen Klopp in 2019.

He joined Brighton & Hove Albion on a free transfer in 2023 and continued to play an influential role before deciding to retire.

On the international stage, Milner earned 61 caps for England national football team, representing his country at two FIFA World Cups and two UEFA European Championships.

He retires having made 964 appearances for club and country, leaving behind a legacy defined by consistency, versatility and sustained excellence across more than two decades at the highest level.

Atiqa Mir scripts history in Greece with stunning pole-to-flag victory

THESSALONIKI

Indian karting prodigy Atiqa Mir continued her meteoric rise in international motorsport by securing a historic pole-to-flag victory at the Champions of the Future Academy Program in Greece, marking another major milestone in her rapidly developing career.

The 11-year-old racer from Jammu and Kashmir delivered a flawless performance throughout the event in Thessaloniki, dominating from the outset. After topping the qualifying sessions to claim pole position, Atiqa maintained her advantage from the start and led every lap of the race to secure an emphatic victory against a competitive international field.

The triumph has been widely hailed as a landmark achievement for Indian motorsport, highlighting the emergence of a new generation of talented racers capable of competing successfully on the global stage. Atiqa's latest success further strengthens her reputation as one of India's most promising young sporting talents.

Despite her age, the youngster displayed remarkable composure, racecraft and consistency under pressure. Her ability to convert pole position into a commanding victory demonstrated maturity beyond her years and underlined why she is regarded as a future star of the sport.

The Champions of the Future Academy Program is considered an important development platform for emerging karting talent from around the world. Success in such competitions often serves as a stepping stone for drivers aspiring to progress through the ranks of international motorsport.

World Cup-bound Tim Payne embraces viral fame as followers soar overnight

FORT LAUDERDALE

New Zealand defender Tim Payne has become one of the most unexpected stories ahead of the FIFA World Cup 2026 after a social media phenomenon transformed him from a relatively unknown footballer into an online sensation with millions of followers.

In less than a week, Payne's Instagram following skyrocketed from just 4,715 followers to more than 4.2 million after Argentine influencer Valen Scarsini, popularly known as "elscarso", urged his audience to support the New Zealand international. Scarsini identified Payne as the least-known player at the World Cup and encouraged fans to follow, like and comment on his social media accounts.

The campaign quickly gained momentum, turning the Wellington Phoenix defender into one of the most talked-about players outside football's traditional superstars.

Despite the sudden attention, New Zealand coach Darren Bazeley said Payne has handled the situation with remarkable composure while preparing for the tournament in the United States.

Bazeley admitted he was unfamiliar with the mechanics of social media virality but acknowledged the scale of the phenomenon.

He praised Payne's calm personality, saying the defender remained focused on football and was not easily distracted by external attention.

The coach added that teammates had enjoyed teasing Payne about his newfound celebrity status, but stressed that the defender's priorities remained firmly on helping New Zealand perform well at the World Cup.

The remarkable rise has propelled Payne ahead of several of New Zealand's biggest sporting figures on social media.

His follower count now exceeds that of star cricketer Kane Williamson and even the official account of the New Zealand national rugby union team.

Payne embraced the moment by posting a video in Spanish thanking Scarsini for the support and describing the experience as a "crazy 48 hours".

From Rocafonda's streets to football's grandest stage: Yamal's remarkable journey

ROCAFONDA

As football icons Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo prepare for a record sixth FIFA World Cup appearance, many believe the 2026 tournament could ultimately be remembered as the first World Cup of Spain's teenage sensation, Lamine Yamal.

At just 18 years old, Yamal has already established himself as one of the brightest talents in world football. His rise from the working-class neighbourhood of Rocafonda, near Barcelona, to the pinnacle of the sport has been nothing short of extraordinary.

Long before Yamal became a household name, his uncle, Abdul Nasraoui, displayed a replica World Cup trophy in his bakery, convinced his nephew would one day bring football's greatest prize home. Today, that dream appears more realistic than ever.

Yamal's journey began on the concrete courts of Rocafonda, where quick feet and creativity were essential. It was there that scouts first noticed his exceptional ability. Former Barcelona youth football chief Jordi Roura recalls being immediately struck by the youngster's natural dribbling skills and football intelligence during a trial match.

Barcelona swiftly moved to secure his signature, recognising a talent capable of extraordinary things. Despite his slight frame and quiet personality, Yamal possessed a rare gift — the ability to beat defenders effortlessly and thrive under pressure.

Born to a Moroccan father and an Equatorial Guinean mother, Yamal grew up between Rocafonda and nearby Roca del Vallès after his parents separated.

Yet Rocafonda remained central to his identity, symbolised by his famous goal celebration in which he forms the numbers "304" — the final digits of the neighbourhood's postcode.

His success has transformed perceptions of the area, which was once more commonly associated with poverty and crime. Today, murals celebrating Yamal adorn local walls, and youngsters dream of following in his footsteps.

Dutch great Taeke Taekema joins India women for drag-flick training camp

AUCKLAND

The Indian women's hockey team has received a major boost ahead of the FIH Women's Nations Cup, with legendary Dutch drag-flick specialist Taeke Taekema joining the squad for a specialised training camp focused on improving penalty-corner execution and drag-flicking skills.

Taekema, widely regarded as one of the finest drag-flickers in hockey history, has linked up with the team during its ongoing tour of Australia and New Zealand as part of preparations for the Nations Cup, scheduled to be held in Auckland from June 15 to 21.

The former Netherlands international will work closely with India head coach Sjoerd Marijne to strengthen one of the most crucial aspects of modern hockey. The camp is aimed at improving conversion rates from penalty corners and enhancing the team's attacking efficiency ahead of a key international assignment.

Indian drag-flickers Deepika, Lalthantluangi and Annu are among the players benefiting from the intensive sessions. The programme is designed not only to improve technical execution but also to build confidence in high-pressure situations where penalty corners often determine the outcome of matches.

Taekema enjoyed a distinguished international career with the Netherlands, representing his country at multiple Olympic Games and Hockey World Cups. He made more than 200 international appearances and scored an impressive 221 goals, earning a reputation as one of the sport's most feared set-piece specialists.

The initiative has been supported by Anandana Foundation, which continues to invest in the development of women's hockey in India. Earlier this year, the foundation also supported a specialised goalkeeping camp in Bengaluru conducted by renowned coach David Williamson.

India recently completed a four-match friendly series against Australia at Perth Hockey Stadium, with both teams winning two matches each to finish the series level at 2-2. The competitive outings provided valuable preparation ahead of the Nations Cup. The squad is scheduled to arrive in New Zealand on June 3 and will continue its preparations through practice matches before the tournament begins.

Marijne welcomed Taekema's appointment, highlighting the growing importance of specialist coaching in elite hockey. He said the Dutch legend's experience would benefit both India's attacking and defensive structures, while helping players maximise scoring opportunities from penalty corners.

Serena set for stunning return to professional tennis at 44

PARIS

Tennis legend Serena Williams is set to make a remarkable return to professional tennis at the age of 44, nearly four years after stepping away from the sport she dominated for more than two decades.

The Women's Tennis Association (WTA) announced that Williams has accepted a wild-card entry to compete in the doubles event at the prestigious Queen's Club tournament in London next week, marking the first chapter of what could become one of the most extraordinary comebacks in sporting history. Williams, winner of 23 Grand Slam singles titles, has not competed since her emotional farewell at the 2022 US Open. At the time, she avoided using the word "retirement," instead describing her departure from the sport as an "evolution" away from tennis.

Now, speculation is growing that the American icon could eventually return to singles competition, with Wimbledon and the US Open emerging as potential targets later this season. In a statement released by tournament organisers, Williams expressed excitement about returning to competition, describing Queen's Club as the ideal place to begin a new chapter in her career.

Liverpool open talks with Andoni Iraola for head coach role

LIVERPOOL

Liverpool have begun negotiations with Spanish coach Andoni Iraola to become the club's new head coach following the dismissal of Arne Slot, according to a person familiar with the discussions.

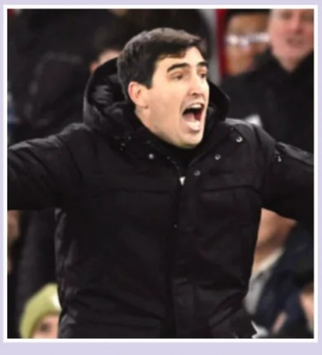
The individual spoke to media on condition of anonymity as no formal agreement has yet been reached.

Iraola has emerged as Liverpool's preferred candidate as the club seeks a manager capable of implementing an aggressive, attacking style of football. Sporting director Richard Hughes is understood to be leading the recruitment process as the Reds prepare for a new era at Anfield.

The 43-year-old Spaniard enhanced his reputation during a successful spell at Bournemouth, guiding the south coast club to European qualification before stepping down at the end of the season.

Under Iraola, Bournemouth earned praise for their high-intensity approach and ability to challenge wealthier opponents despite operating with limited resources.

His work in developing players such as Antoine Semenyo, Dean Huijsen and Milos Kerkez drew widespread recognition.



Even after key departures, Bournemouth secured a sixth-place Premier League finish, ending the campaign just one spot and three points behind Liverpool in the race for the final Champions League qualification berth.

Liverpool Open Talks With Iraola

Liverpool have started negotiations with Spanish coach Andoni Iraola after parting ways with Arne Slot. Iraola impressed during his Bournemouth spell, leading the club to European qualification with an attacking style. Sporting director Richard Hughes is overseeing talks as Liverpool seek a fresh direction and stronger Premier League performances next season.

Liverpool are reportedly eager to appoint a coach whose philosophy aligns with the club's attacking ambitions and suits several recent signings and transfer targets.

The club is expected to be active in the transfer market after an underwhelming campaign in which high-profile players, including Florian Wirtz, Jeremie Frimpong and striker Alexander Isak, struggled to consistently deliver.

While Iraola lacks experience managing one of Europe's elite clubs, his stock has risen rapidly since arriving in England in 2023.

Prior to Bournemouth, he enjoyed successful spells with Spanish side Rayo Vallecano and in Cyprus.

Should negotiations progress positively, Iraola could become one of Liverpool's most significant managerial appointments in recent years as the club aims to return to the summit of English and European football.

QUICK READ

HSBC sees RBI holding rates, hawkish shift ahead

New Delhi

The Reserve Bank of India is expected to keep interest rates unchanged at its upcoming Monetary Policy Committee meeting, according to HSBC. However, the central bank's stance may become more hawkish as rising crude oil prices and a weaker rupee increase inflation risks. HSBC Chief India Economist Pranjul Bhandari expects only gradual policy tightening, with around two rate hikes likely from the fourth quarter of 2026. She believes the RBI may raise its inflation forecast closer to 5 percent, reflecting higher oil price assumptions. Bhandari noted that slowing growth and rising inflation create a difficult policy challenge, while weather risks and elevated energy costs could further pressure the economy.

Haryana to begin smart metering rollout from August

New Delhi

Haryana will commence smart metering works across the state from August 31, 2026, following a review meeting chaired by Union Power Minister Manohar Lal. The minister stressed a phased rollout of prepaid smart meters, starting with government consumers and employees before extending to high-load users. Discussions covered the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme, financial health of power utilities, and measures to reduce losses and improve revenues. Manohar Lal also urged timely settlement of government dues and better transmission planning to meet rising demand. Progress under the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana was reviewed, with Haryana directed to boost consumer enrolment and strengthen power sector sustainability.

Uber invests in ONDC to boost digital network

New Delhi

Uber has announced a strategic investment in the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC), marking one of the earliest commitments by a global tech company to India's digital public infrastructure initiative. The company said the move strengthens its long-term strategy of building mobility and logistics services on open, interoperable networks. Uber will expand its collaboration with ONDC to improve access to multimodal transport, including public transit integrations and logistics solutions for businesses and independent earners. Company executives highlighted India's leadership in digital public infrastructure, while ONDC representatives said the partnership reflects growing confidence in the platform's ability to drive inclusive and scalable innovation across sectors.

India-Germany deep tech co-op strengthens strategic ties

India and Germany have agreed to strengthen cooperation in quantum communication, space technology, and emerging deep-tech innovation fields.

NEW DELHI

India and Germany have reaffirmed their commitment to expanding cooperation in advanced technology sectors, including quantum communication, space exploration, artificial intelligence, and other deep-tech innovation areas, according to official discussions highlighted in recent reports.

The engagement reflects growing strategic alignment between the two countries as they seek to strengthen collaboration in frontier technologies that are expected to define the next phase of global economic and scientific development. Both sides emphasized the importance of building resilient technology ecosystems and advancing joint research and innovation.

A key focus of the discussions was quantum communication, a rapidly emerging field that leverages quantum mechanics to enable highly secure data transmission. Officials from both countries explored opportunities for joint research programs, technology exchange, and potential pilot projects aimed at strengthening secure communication infrastructure.

Space cooperation was another major area of interest. India and Germany discussed expanding partnerships in satellite technology, earth observation systems, and space research missions. These initiatives are expected to enhance scientific capabilities while also supporting applications in climate monitoring, disaster management, and telecommunications.

The two countries also highlighted the importance of collaboration in deep-tech innovation, including artificial intelligence, advanced manufacturing, and next-generation computing technologies. By combining India's growing digital ecosystem and engineering talent with Germany's strong industrial and research base, both sides aim to accelerate innovation and commercialization of emerging technologies.

Officials noted that such partnerships could also strengthen supply chain resilience and support the development of trusted technology frameworks in a rapidly evolving global landscape. The discussions come at a time when countries worldwide are increasing investment in strategic technologies to maintain competitiveness and technological sovereignty.

Experts believe that deeper India-Germany cooperation in high-tech sectors could create new opportunities for startups, research institutions, and industry players in both countries. It also aligns with broader efforts to promote sustainable development and digital transformation through international collaboration.

As engagement between the two nations deepens, quantum technologies, space science, and deep-tech innovation are expected to become key pillars of their future strategic partnership.

Govt invites applications for two SEBI posts

NEW DELHI

Govt invites applications for two SEBI whole-time member posts, seeking experienced candidates to strengthen market regulation and leadership at the capital market watchdog.

The central government has invited applications for two whole-time member (WTM) positions at the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), with the Department of Economic Affairs setting June 30 as the deadline for submissions.

The move aims to strengthen the senior leadership of India's capital market regulator, which plays a key role in policy formulation, enforcement, market supervision and investor protection.

According to the notification, selected candidates will have the option to receive a salary equivalent to that of an additional secretary to the government or opt for a consolidated pay of Rs 5 lakh per month, excluding housing and car facilities.

At present, SEBI has four whole-time members overseeing various regulatory and operational functions. The three-year terms of two members are scheduled to end in September, although they remain eligible for reappointment subject to age limits.

The government is seeking candidates with strong professional credentials, integrity and expertise in fields such as securities markets, finance, law, economics, accountancy or public administration. Applicants are expected to have at least 20 years of experience, with a preferred age range of 45 to 60 years.

The notification also specifies that candidates from government services, public sector undertakings, academic institutions and research organisations must submit supporting documents, including performance appraisal reports for the past five years, vigilance clearance and integrity certificates.

Appointments will be made by the central government based on recommendations from the Financial Sector Regulatory Appointments Search Committee (FSRASC), which may also consider individuals who have not formally applied.

Whole-time members form part of SEBI's senior leadership and are responsible for shaping regulatory frameworks, overseeing investigations and ensuring orderly development of India's capital markets.

Fuel price surge accelerates India's EV adoption

NEW DELHI

Rising fuel prices are driving stronger demand for electric vehicles (EVs) in India, with the sector recording robust growth in May across both passenger and two-wheeler segments. According to reports by Nomura and HSBC, electric passenger vehicles accounted for more than 6 per cent of total car sales during the month, while electric two-wheelers achieved over 9 per cent market penetration. The sharp increase in fuel costs has encouraged consumers to consider battery-powered alternatives as a cost-effective and environmentally friendly mode of transportation. Industry analysts say the trend reflects a broader shift in consumer preferences as EVs become increasingly practical and accessible. Among passenger vehicle manufacturers, Tata Motors emerged as a major beneficiary of the growing demand. The company reported an 85 per cent year-on-year increase in EV sales and witnessed a significant rise in customer bookings, indicating sustained momentum in the segment.

Mesabi Metallics has raised $265 million by selling half its royalty interest, strengthening funding for its Minnesota iron ore project.

Mesabi Metallics sells royalty stake for $265 million

NEW DELHI

Mesabi Metallics Company LLC, backed by the Essar Group, has agreed to monetize a portion of its royalty platform by selling a 50 per cent royalty interest to The Metals Royalty Company Inc. (TMCR) for $265 million.

The deal values the royalty platform at more than $500 million and marks another significant milestone for the Minnesota-based iron ore project.

The transaction will be completed in two equal tranches of $132.5 million each. The first tranche closed on June 1 while the second is expected to be finalized within the next 60 days. According to the company, most of the proceeds will be directed toward supporting Mesabi Metallics' future growth and development plans.

The agreement highlights investor confidence in Mesabi Metallics' direct reduction (DR)-grade iron ore mine, beneficiation facility and pellet plant in Minnesota. The project is expected to begin production in the third quarter of 2026 and is positioned to become one of North America's few major domestic suppliers of merchant DR-grade iron ore pellets.

These pellets are considered essential for electric arc furnace steelmaking, a process increasingly used in modern steel production. The United States currently depends heavily on imported DR-grade pellets, particularly from Brazil and other international suppliers. Mesabi's output is expected to strengthen domestic supply chains and support industries such as infrastructure, automotive manufacturing, shipbuilding, defence and energy.

The royalty transaction follows more than $670 million in recently announced financing commitments, including $520 million from Breakwall Capital and $150 million from Macquarie Group. In addition, the company has received an indication of support of up to $10 billion from the Export-Import Bank of the United States.

Company executives and TMCR leadership described the investment as a strong endorsement of Mesabi Metallics' scale, resource quality, long mine life and strategic importance to the future growth of the American steel industry.

Force Motors shares hit 52-week low on sales

MUMBAI

Shares of Force Motors Limited plunged to a 52-week low on Tuesday after the company reported weak sales performance for May 2026, raising concerns among investors about slowing demand and profitability.

The stock fell as much as 5.93 per cent during trading on the National Stock Exchange (NSE), touching Rs 17,782 per share. By around 1:25 pm, the stock was trading at Rs 17,931, down 5.15 per cent or Rs 973 from its previous close. The decline marked the third consecutive trading session of losses for the company's shares.

Force Motors reported total sales of 2,614 units in May 2026, registering a 15.35 per cent year-on-year decline from 3,088 units sold during the same month last year. The weak sales numbers reflected challenges across both domestic and export markets.

Domestic sales, which include small commercial vehicles, light commercial vehicles, utility vehicles and sports utility vehicles, dropped 14.72 per cent to 2,560 units compared with 3,002 units in May 2025. Export sales witnessed an even sharper decline, falling 37.21 per cent year-on-year to just 54 units.

The disappointing performance weighed heavily on investor sentiment. Over the past week, Force Motors shares have declined by around 10 per cent, while losses over the past month have also exceeded 10 per cent. On a year-to-date basis, the stock is down more than 14 per cent.

The sales slowdown comes shortly after the company reported weaker quarterly earnings. For the fourth quarter of FY26, Force Motors posted a 36.3 per cent decline in standalone profit after tax to Rs 273.67 crore, compared with Rs 429.64 crore in the corresponding quarter of the previous fiscal.

Despite the profit decline, revenue from operations increased 8.22 per cent year-on-year to Rs 2,549.72 crore. Last month, the company introduced the new Force Traveller N Range for delivery van, ambulance and school bus applications, featuring a redesigned cockpit, digital instrument cluster, infotainment system and enhanced cabin comfort.

AI reshapes advertising industry, boosts India's AdTech prospects

NEW DELHI

Artificial intelligence is rapidly transforming the global advertising landscape, creating new opportunities for India to emerge as a leading hub for AdTech innovation and globally competitive technology companies, according to a report released on Tuesday by Redseer Strategy Consultants.

The report highlights that AI is influencing every layer of the advertising ecosystem, including media buying, creative production, customer targeting, commerce and campaign measurement.

As the global advertising market surpasses the $1 trillion mark, AI-driven automation is accelerating the shift toward more data-driven, efficient and outcome-focused advertising models.

India is well positioned to benefit from this transition due to its strong technology talent pool and digital infrastructure. The country produces around 2.7 million engineering and technology graduates annually and is home to an estimated 20–24 million GitHub developers. In addition, nearly 1,900 global capability centres operating in India generate between $65 billion and $75 billion in exports, providing a robust foundation for AI-led product development.

According to the report, India's digital advertising market is expected to grow from approximately $21 billion in 2025 to between $33 billion and $42 billion by 2030. This growth is likely to create a strong domestic platform for AI-powered advertising innovation and technology development.

Digital advertising now accounts for nearly 75–80 per cent of total global advertising expenditure, while 80–85 per cent of digital advertising transactions are already conducted programmatically. AI is expected to further automate and optimise these processes.

Mukesh Kumar, Associate Partner at Redseer Strategy Consultants, said AI is not merely adding a new layer to advertising but fundamentally redesigning the entire ecosystem. He noted that the technological capabilities required for AI-driven advertising platforms align closely with the engineering expertise India has developed over the past three decades.

NPCI UPI MILESTONE

UPI sets record high amid digital payments surge

NEW DELHI

India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) recorded its highest-ever monthly performance in May 2026, reflecting the continued acceleration of digital payments across the country, according to data released by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).

UPI processed 23.2 billion transactions during the month, marking a steady rise from 22.35 billion transactions in April 2026. In value terms, total transactions reached Rs 29.9 trillion (approximately Rs 29.9 lakh crore), registering strong year-on-year growth and highlighting the expanding scale of digital financial activity in India.

The growth in transaction volumes underscores the increasing reliance on UPI for everyday payments, including retail purchases, utility bill payments, peer-to-peer transfers, and small business transactions. The platform has become a central pillar of India's digital economy, facilitating real-time, low-cost, and interoperable payments across urban and rural markets.

Experts note that the rise in both transaction volume and value indicates broad-based adoption across multiple segments. Higher transaction counts suggest growing usage for smaller, routine payments, while sustained value growth points to increasing acceptance for larger transactions as well.

Several structural factors continue to support UPI's expansion, including widespread smartphone adoption, improved internet connectivity, and growing merchant acceptance of digital payments. In addition, government policy support and financial inclusion initiatives have played a key role in bringing more users into the formal digital payments ecosystem.

The system's scalability and ease of use have also contributed to its rapid adoption, making it one of the fastest-growing real-time payment platforms globally. With monthly volumes now consistently exceeding 20 billion transactions, UPI has cemented its position as the backbone of India's digital payment infrastructure.

Analysts believe that the continued growth of UPI reflects a broader shift away from cash-based transactions toward a more digital-first economy. As innovation in financial technology continues and new use cases emerge, UPI is expected to further deepen its penetration across both consumer and merchant ecosystems in the coming years.

SUMMARY

- Record 23.2 billion UPI transactions
- Rs 29.9 trillion monthly value
- Strong digital payments growth continues
- Wider merchant and user adoption
- Cashless economy trend accelerating rapidly

ICC approves pink-ball trial to counter bad light interruptions in Tests

New playing conditions aim to maximise action and reduce overs lost

AHMEDABAD

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has approved a trial allowing the use of the pink ball in Test matches affected by bad light, marking one of several significant changes to playing conditions ratified during its annual board meeting in Ahmedabad.

Under the proposal, Test matches will continue to begin with the traditional red ball. However, if fading light threatens to halt play and both teams have agreed before the series, the match can temporarily switch to a pink ball under floodlights to ensure the scheduled overs are completed.

The move is designed to minimise lost playing time in a format that has frequently been disrupted by poor visibility despite suitable conditions for spectators and television audiences. For example, if only 15 overs remain in a day's play and bad light prevents the use of the red ball, those overs could be completed with a pink ball under artificial lighting.

The ICC said the trial would be conducted only with prior consent from both participating teams. The decision is expected to generate debate, particularly among teams that have traditionally been reluctant to embrace pink-ball cricket because of the additional seam movement and different playing conditions it creates.

To further address the issue, the ICC Board also approved research into advanced lighting technology for match officials and venues.

The governing body will co-fund research and development projects with the Marylebone Cricket Club aimed at reducing interruptions caused by poor light.

Among other key changes, head coaches or designated support staff will now be permitted to enter the field during scheduled drinks intervals in Test cricket, similar to strategic time-outs in T20 matches.

The board also approved the permanent adoption of the leg-side wides trial and granted match officials access to Hawk-Eye data when assessing suspected illegal bowling actions. The meeting also resulted in the immediate suspension of Cricket Canada over governance and membership breaches, although Canadian national teams will remain eligible for ICC events under a controlled funding arrangement.

Additionally, the ICC shifted the ICC Women's Champions Trophy 2027 to February 14-28, 2027, and approved the launch of the Women's Emerging Nations Trophy in 2026 featuring 10 teams.

All new playing conditions will come into effect from October 1, 2026.

ICC suspends Canada board over governance issues

AHMEDABAD

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has suspended the membership of Cricket Canada over serious breaches of its membership obligations, while ensuring that Canadian national teams remain eligible to participate in international competitions.

The decision was announced following the ICC Board's annual meeting in Ahmedabad and comes weeks after the governing body's Anti-Corruption Unit launched an investigation into the administration of cricket in Canada.

Despite the suspension, the ICC clarified that Canada's men's and women's national teams will continue to compete in ICC-sanctioned events. Funding required for the operation of national teams will also remain available through a controlled mechanism overseen by the ICC to ensure players are not adversely affected by governance issues within the national board.

National teams remain eligible for international events despite governing suspension.

The move follows growing scrutiny of Cricket Canada after a documentary broadcast by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation in April alleged widespread corruption within the organisation. The report included claims of match manipulation, governance irregularities and threats of violence involving several players and officials.

Media reports indicated that the ICC's Anti-Corruption Unit initiated an investigation shortly after the allegations surfaced.

In a statement, the ICC said its board had resolved to suspend Cricket Canada due to serious violations of membership requirements. However, it emphasised the importance of safeguarding the interests of Canadian cricketers and maintaining the development of the sport in the country.

To regain its membership status, Cricket Canada must meet a series of conditions designed to address governance and administrative shortcomings. The ICC said progress would be monitored by its Normalisation Committee, with support from ICC management.

Reinstatement will only be considered once the board is satisfied that all stipulated conditions have been fully met. The measures are intended to strengthen transparency, accountability and administrative standards within the organisation.

The suspension mirrors action taken by the ICC against USA Cricket in 2025 for similar breaches of membership rules.

Although USA Cricket remains suspended, American national teams continue to participate in ICC competitions and are expected to feature at the cricket tournament during the 2028 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles. The ICC's latest action highlights its increasing focus on governance standards among member nations as cricket continues its global expansion.

Lalit Modi predicts global superstardom for IPL sensation Sooryavanshi

NEW DELHI

Praise continues to pour in for teenage batting sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi after his record-breaking IPL 2026 season, with former IPL chairman Lalit Modi making a bold prediction that the youngster could become a bigger global celebrity than stars from Hollywood and Bollywood.

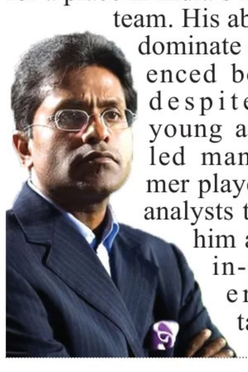
The 15-year-old Rajasthan Royals batter emerged as one of the biggest stories of IPL 2026, dazzling fans and experts alike with a string of fearless and explosive performances.

Sooryavanshi finished the season as the tournament's leading run-scorer, amassing 776 runs in 16 matches to claim the Orange Cap and establish himself as one of cricket's most exciting young talents.

Modi backed the Bihar-born cricketer to achieve unprecedented success in the shortest format of the game. He predicted that Sooryavanshi would eventually score a double century in T20 cricket, a feat yet to be achieved at the highest level.

Modi also urged the youngster to remain grounded despite the growing fame and financial rewards that have followed his remarkable rise. According to the former IPL chief, Sooryavanshi possesses the talent and potential to become the biggest sporting superstar on the planet.

The comments add to the growing hype surrounding the teenager, whose performances have sparked calls for a place in India's national team. His ability to dominate experienced bowlers despite his young age has led many former players and analysts to label him a once-in-a-generation talent.



Is Vaibhav Suryavanshi next in line for Team India? BCCI chief hints at selection

NEW DELHI

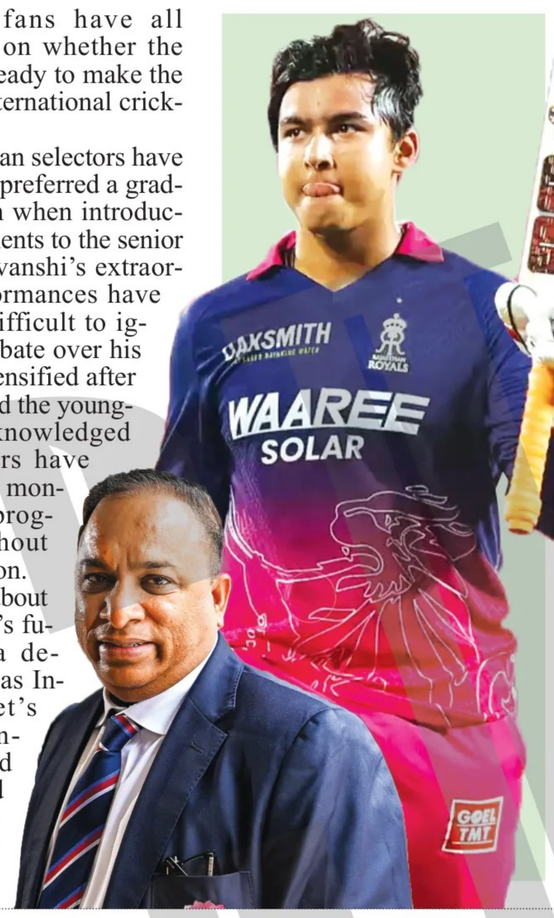
Rajasthan Royals batting prodigy Vaibhav Suryavanshi has emerged as a strong contender for a Team India call-up following a sensational IPL 2026 campaign, with BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia indicating that the teenager is firmly on the selectors' radar.

At just 15 years old, Suryavanshi enjoyed a breakthrough season that captured the imagination of cricket fans across the country. The left-handed batter finished as the leading run-scorer of IPL 2026, amassing an impressive 776 runs in 16 matches and claiming the prestigious Orange Cap. In doing so, he became the youngest player in the tournament's history to achieve the feat.

His fearless strokeplay, maturity under pressure and consistency against some of the world's best bowlers have sparked widespread calls for his inclusion in the national side. Former cricketers, experts and fans have all weighed in on whether the teenager is ready to make the step up to international cricket.

While Indian selectors have traditionally preferred a gradual approach when introducing young talents to the senior team, Suryavanshi's extraordinary performances have made him difficult to ignore. The debate over his selection intensified after Saikia praised the youngster and acknowledged that selectors have been closely monitoring his progress throughout the IPL season.

Speaking about Suryavanshi's future, Saikia described him as Indian cricket's latest "wonderkid" and expressed confidence that he would make a major impact on the global stage in the years ahead.



The BCCI secretary said selectors had been tracking every IPL match closely and would take the best decision for the youngster when future squads are picked, including for India's upcoming tour of the United Kingdom. He added that while several players had delivered outstanding performances during the tournament, Suryavanshi stood out because of his age, temperament and remarkable consistency.

Although no official announcement has been made regarding his inclusion in the national team, Saikia's comments suggest that the teenager is very much in contention. For now, Indian cricket's newest sensation appears closer than ever to realising his dream of representing the country at the highest level.

Ireland edge West Indies by one run to record historic T20I victory

DUBLIN

Ireland registered a landmark victory in women's cricket, defeating West Indies by one run via the Duckworth-Lewis-Stern (DLS) method in the Tri-Nation Women's T20I Series to secure their first-ever win against the Caribbean side in the format.

The dramatic result lifted Ireland to the top of the tournament standings after a rain-interrupted encounter in which captain Orla Prendergast delivered a match-winning all-round performance.

Chasing a target of 142, Ireland found themselves under early pressure after losing wickets in the opening stages of the innings. However, Prendergast steadied the chase with a superb unbeaten 71 off just 46 deliveries, striking 11 boundaries and a six. Her aggressive yet controlled innings kept Ireland ahead of the required rate despite regular setbacks at the other end.

The turning point came in the 15th over when Leah Paul struck a crucial boundary that carried Ireland to 99 for five after 14.1 overs, one run ahead of the DLS par score of 98. Moments later, worsening weather forced players off the field, and with no possibility of resuming play, Ireland were declared winners by the narrowest of margins.

Earlier, Ireland's bowlers laid the foundation for the victory by restricting West Indies to 141 for eight in their allotted 20 overs. Ava Canning produced an outstanding spell, finishing with figures of 2 for 11 from four overs. Her early breakthroughs removed captain Hayley Matthews and Qiana Joseph, putting the hosts on the back foot.

Prendergast also made an important contribution with the ball, claiming two wickets for 26 runs, including the late dismissals of Aaliyah Alleyne and Zaida James. West Indies recovered through a 44-run partnership between Shemaine Campbelle and Jannillea Glasgow, whose 36 helped push the total beyond 140.

Despite an early double strike from Shawnisha Hector in the chase, Ireland remained composed.

Prendergast dominated a crucial sixth-wicket partnership with Paul, whose decisive boundary ultimately proved the difference.

The victory leaves both Ireland and West Indies with two wins from three matches, while Pakistan women's cricket team remain winless after two games in the tri-series.

Tim David suspended for RCB's IPL 2027 opener after umpire incident

AHMEDABAD

Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) batter Tim David has been suspended for the first match of the 2027 Indian Premier League season after accumulating five demerit points during the recently concluded campaign. The Australian power-hitter was also fined 50 per cent of his match fee for breaching the IPL Code of Conduct during the IPL 2026 final against Gujarat Titans in Ahmedabad.

The disciplinary action stemmed from an incident during the 10th over of the first innings in the final, where David threw an ice pack in the direction of on-field umpire Nitin Menon. The IPL governing body found the act to be in violation of Article 2.9 of the Code of Conduct, which covers throwing a ball or any item of cricket equipment at or near a player, official, umpire or any third person in an inappropriate or dangerous manner during a match.

David admitted to the offence and accepted the sanction imposed by match referee Javagal Srinath. The punishment carries added significance as it pushed his tally to five demerit points for the season, automatically triggering a one-match suspension.

The 30-year-old had already been penalised twice earlier in IPL 2026. On May 11, following RCB's clash against Mumbai Indians, he was fined 30 per cent of his match fee and handed two demerit points for using a gesture deemed obscene, offensive or insulting under Article 2.6 of the Code.

Before that, during another match against Mumbai Indians on April 13, David received a fine amounting to 25 per cent of his match fee and one demerit point for disobeying an umpire's instruction, an offence covered under Article 2.4 of the IPL regulations.

As a result, David will miss RCB's opening fixture of IPL 2027, or the first match of any franchise he represents in the tournament next season.

India set for 53-match int'l season ahead of 2027 World Cup

HYDERABAD

India is set for a packed international calendar featuring 53 matches across formats before the start of the 2027 Indian Premier League season, providing crucial preparation ahead of the 2027 ICC Men's Cricket World Cup.

According to the proposed Future Tours Programme being widely discussed among cricket followers, India will play 10 Tests, 20 One-Day Internationals and 23 Twenty20 Internationals between June 2026 and March 2027.

The schedule is expected to begin on June 6 with a home series against Afghanistan comprising a one-off Test and ODI matches. India will then embark on overseas assignments in Ireland, England, Zimbabwe and Sri Lanka, while also playing a three-match T20I series against Afghanistan at a neutral venue in New Delhi, with Afghanistan acting as the host nation.

Several teams are also scheduled to tour India during the period. West Indies, Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe are expected to visit for white-ball series featuring ODI and T20I contests. The extensive calendar is seen as a key phase in India's build-up to the 2027 World Cup.

Snubbed J&K Nabi joins India camp as net bowler

NEW CHANDIGARH

Jammu and Kashmir pacer Auqib Nabi Dar, whose omission from India's squad for the one-off Test against Afghanistan sparked considerable debate, has been called up to assist the national team as a net bowler ahead of the match beginning on June 6 at Mullanpur.

The young seamer is among seven bowlers invited by the Indian team management to strengthen practice sessions before the Test. His inclusion comes despite missing out on the final 15-member squad, a decision that had drawn criticism from several former cricketers and observers.

According to sources, Auqib will join the Indian camp alongside Uttar Pradesh leg-spinner Zeeshan Ansari, who recently featured for Sunrisers Hyderabad in the IPL. The presence of a wrist-spinner in the nets is expected to help Indian batters prepare for Afghanistan's spin-heavy attack.

Team management is believed to have requested additional bowlers due to concerns over workload management. Senior pacers Mohammed Siraj and Prasidh Krishna recently endured a demanding IPL schedule, playing three matches in seven days while travelling extensively. As a result, the duo are unlikely to bowl at full intensity during practice sessions, making support bowlers essential for match preparation.

Auqib's call-up is particularly significant given his outstanding domestic season. The right-arm seamer claimed 60 wickets in the Ranji Trophy, finishing as the tournament's highest wicket-taker and playing a crucial role in Jammu and Kashmir's title-winning campaign.

His exclusion from the national squad had triggered strong reactions, with former India captain and ex-selection committee chairman Dilip Vengsarkar questioning the value of domestic performances if such achievements were not rewarded with national selection opportunities.

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